

THE ACADEMY.

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LITERATURE.

Correspondence of Princess Lieven and Earl Grey. Edited and translated by Guy le Strange. In 2 vols. (Bentley.)

THIS correspondence has a certain interest, but that is rather personal than political. Such revelation as there is of secrets of state is concerned with matters which have passed into the historical period. The personality of two very attached, able, and astute correspondents is ever before the reader, and has an attraction far beyond that of the general matter of these volumes. The Russian Princess displays remarkable facility in writing political gossip, and the replies are worthy of one who was a great statesman and prime minister. There is no possibility of forgetting the sex of the writers. The princess makes constant reference to her womanly affection for Lord Grey, who himself, in the most anxious hours of statecraft, never appears to have overlooked the claims of his correspondent. Both were keen politicians; each highly valued the information to be gained from the other. The princess evidently made discreet use of Lord Grey's news at St. Petersburg, and he found her news a very useful assistance to one who had not much liking for association with the gossips of London society. The lady was forty and the gentleman sixty when the correspondence opens, and it is unnecessary to say that throughout the volumes there is not a word of any compromising character. The letters were certainly not designed for publication; but in November, 1846, the princess so far contemplated the possibility that she fixed "the round figure of the year 1880" as a date at which the light of such publicity might be allowed to shine upon them.

Let us proceed to give some indication of the writers from their own words. A sort of character portrait may be made up with a few carefully selected extracts. They were both anxious for political secrecy, or rather for judicious use of their information as a means of extending their influence. The princess writes:—

"I beg you to understand that in writing to you as freely as I do, I believe myself to be speaking in all confidence, for very different letters do I write to the gossips."

Soon after there occurs one of their not infrequent approaches to a quarrel. About the time when the foundation of Greek independence was in question, the lady issued a threat:

"My dear lord, I for my part shall consider as personal anything you may say having a tendency to embarrass the fulfilment of the treaty, which I regard as the sheet-anchor of Greek independence."

To which Lord Grey replies:

"I must submit to the penalty if I should be so unfortunate as to incur it; but in my turn I must add, not a threat, but the expression of a resolution equally sincere and equally firm that if our friendship is broken off on this ground it can never be renewed."

Another advance to a quarrel occurred years after, when Lord Grey, in the time of Polish troubles, invited Prince Czartoryski to dine. At this time Lord Grey was Prime Minister, and the Polish prince met some members of his cabinet. This moved the wrath of the wife of the Russian Ambassador, who expressed her grief and anger:

"My dear lord, this man whom you, the Prime Minister of England, have just received with every token of friendship and consideration which you could show to a foreigner of the highest distinction, is a state criminal—convicted of high treason against his sovereign—a sovereign who is the friend and the ally of England."

Prince Lieven asked as to this dinner explanations from Lord Palmerston, then Foreign Secretary. To the princess Lord Grey replied that he "must protest against, and never will submit to, such an interference."

At one time they had difficulties of another sort. Lord Grey writes:

"I was rather surprised at being told the other day that Lord Melbourne had said at Brooks's that I had written to you to say that he would be the First Lord. . . . I begin to think one ought to repeat nothing—literally nothing; and I am become wonderfully discreet in this respect."

The princess sometimes gave warning of the need for caution. In one place she says:

"What I am telling you is all from the official reports which my husband has received from Lisbon."

The husband sometimes wished to see the earl's letters, and at other times parts were read to him; but the princess was an ingenious correspondent, and arranged with Lord Grey that when she placed a passage in brackets that was not to be answered and no reference was to be made to it. Yet even in such well-directed letters she did not always feel a perfect confidence. In one she says:

"A sheet of paper always appears to me such an insecure confidant that I dare hardly begin. If you were here with me it would be different. My letters, *tête-à-tête*, for you alone, and go no further."

They were zealous and punctual correspondents. Said the princess:

"Write to me every week, and write long letters, and about everything. Believe that I shall think of you very often, and that means always."

This was received with the remark:

"A poor substitute for my daily visit, but it made me very happy as a proof of your kindness and remembrance. How I have missed you, and how I shall count the months and weeks till you return!"

The following is a specimen of a most valued letter from the princess:

"The Duke of Wellington has told me that all would go off well; that he was sure of his position; that he could carry out all his inten-

tions; that Reform could no more be carried through without him than the Catholic question; that he would have nothing to do with it, and consequently that nothing would be done. In a word, he feels perfectly sure of his position. Come and see me at one o'clock if you can. Tear up this note, but let me know that you have received it."

Lord Grey, as an active politician, naturally delighted in that sort of correspondence; but it is obvious that the present interest of such letters—and this is a fair sample—is not very great. Yet we must observe that, as to remarks of this sort, the able editor of these volumes has placed us in some difficulty. We are told that the third and concluding volume is ready, and will be published should the reception accorded to the present volumes warrant its appearance. To some extent, this announcement forces our hand. We cannot take part, or share, in any responsibility for the suppression of the third volume. We feel that the spirit of the vivacious Russian princess would be outraged were it so withheld. We must, therefore, be circumspect in our criticism. She was mistress of the arts of clever women, and humoured Lord Grey, who did not like the Duke of Wellington, as only a woman could:

"I am delighted to hear of O'Connell's arrest. You know how I adore vigorous measures. I am quite proud of the honour that will accrue to you from this. . . . Your greatest defect is that you do not allow yourself to be sufficiently guided by your own incontestable superiority of judgment."

It is of some present interest to know that in 1826 Lord Grey wrote of driving the Turks out of Europe as a "laudable endeavour"; that the king said of Navarino "that the actor had deserved a riband, but that the act deserved a halter"; that Lord Grey was almost inclined to go the length of the opinion expressed by Cicero that the most disadvantageous peace is to be preferred to the most successful and glorious war; that the princess in 1832 wondered when "you will have the clôtüre in your parliament"; that she thought Buckingham Palace "contrived to exhibit the perfection of bad taste in every possible way."

We have given, as seems right, most space to the personal features in this long correspondence, and it is undoubtedly a great factor in politics. To his dear friend, the ambassador, Lord Grey admits—and many who know the mainsprings of political action will sympathise with the remark:

"I am not the enemy of Russia, but if I had a disposition to be so it would be checked and controlled by all the sentiments of regard and attachment which I must ever feel for you."

After that, who can say there is no value in political friendships? That such ties are important and may affect great matters and high purposes is, perhaps, one of the most useful lessons to be learnt from this correspondence.

ARTHUR ARNOLD

A History of the Later Roman Empire (A.D. 395-800). By J. B. Bury. In 2 vols. (Macmillan.)

THIS is a most creditable piece of work, and fills a gap in the cycle of English books dealing with the history of the Early Middle

Ages. It fits on to the scheme of Mr. Hodgkin's *Italy and her Invaders*, and ceases at the point where Finlay's history of the Byzantine empire begins to grow full and detailed. If some of our contemporaries would only write the annals of the emperors of the second and third centuries, it would now be possible for the reader to go through the whole history of the Roman empire from Augustus to Constantine XIV. without having to content himself with Gibbon's meagre epitome, or to fall back upon chaotic German monographs.

It is, perhaps, a little difficult to judge, by a glance at the title of Mr. Bury's book, the nature of its subject matter. The expression, "Later Empire," has been used with countless meanings, to cover parts greater or smaller of the period that lies between Commodus and the siege of Constantinople in A.D. 1453. In this case the author, to quote his own words, designs by it

"the four centuries during which the transition from the ancient world to the mediæval world may be said to have taken place. *Ancient and mediæval* are words vaguely used; but, whatever latitude we give them, no one applies the term mediæval to fourth-century history, or the term ancient to that of the eighth. The year A.D. 395 marks the end of the last reign in which the Roman empire was still intact, and is consequently a convenient date for a starting-point. The coronation of Charles the Great marks a new departure in European history, and is, therefore, as Arnold recognised, a suitable end as well as a suitable beginning. After A.D. 800 there are two Roman empires; and the history of Irene's successors naturally occupies a separate book, as the history of the Eastern Roman empire."

Prof. Freeman might, perhaps, deprecate the distinction here drawn between "ancient" and "mediæval" history; but the illogical majority which persists in using the terms will recognise the point of Mr. Bury's definition.

The tale of the conquest by the Teutonic nations of the western half of the Roman empire in the fifth century is told in this work with no great attempt at detail; as the author observes, he does not wish to collide with Mr. Hodgkin. The annals of the Isaurian dynasty, on the other hand, at the end of his book, have received considerable attention in Finlay's great work. Justinian, too, has his historians. But there are two considerable periods of history which have never before been adequately treated in English, and which Mr. Bury opens up to the general reader. The first of these periods is the history of the East-Roman lands from Arcadius to Justin I.; the second the time between the death of Justinian and the rise of Leo the Isaurian. We have often wondered how many men in England could give a concise account of the domestic policy of Anastasius, or stand a short *viva-voce* examination in Maurice's Persian war. Now, we doubt not, the number will be increased.

The history of the reigns between Arcadius and Justinian is set before us by Mr. Bury in a new light. Instead of insisting on barbarian invasions and theological disputes alone, and thereby producing a picture of dismal colouring, he points out that the period was one of fiscal, military, and social recuperation. While the West-Roman lands were overrun from

end to end by the Teuton or the Hun, the East-Roman empire suffered comparatively little. The Balkan peninsula, it is true, endured several harrowing invasions; but Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt were free for a hundred years from the sight of a foreign foe. Three short wars with the Sassanian monarchs of Persia were waged; but the enemy was so firmly held in check that he never could cross the Tigris or Euphrates. It is true that Asia Minor was more than once the scene of an Isaurian rebellion; but such troubles did no damage that can be compared in destructiveness to the results of a Hunnish or Vandal invasion. The empire, too, was fortunate in its rulers—Marcian, Leo I., and Anastasius were all men of mark, prudent and economical, as well as strong. Even Theodosius II., though personally insignificant, was "much beloved by senate and people," and delegated his power to administrators of merit, such as Anthemius and Cyrus of Panopolis. Financial recovery is shown by the enormous issue of gold *solidi* which distinguishes the period. They are still so common that a piece of Leo or Anastasius can be bought for within a shilling of its metal value. The military restoration of the empire kept pace with its fiscal rally; and Leo I. saved the East from the danger which had overwhelmed the West—the preponderance of Teutonic condottieri like Stilicho and Ricimer—by cutting down the alien element in the imperial army and replacing it by Isaurian, Cappadocian, and Armenian regiments raised from among his own born subjects.

While speaking of the army we may mention that the military side of history is the sole one in which Mr. Bury's book is not altogether satisfactory. The main outline of each campaign is stated clearly enough; but there is neither a general introductory sketch on the methods of the warfare of the time, nor any detailed accounts of particular engagements—not even of important and interesting fights such as Tagina or Casilinum, of which we have ample descriptions in the chronicles. It would not be possible to gather from Mr. Bury's pages whether the chief force of an East-Roman army in the sixth century lay in its infantry or its cavalry, or to form an idea of its highly complicated organisation into "bands," "turmae," and so forth. This want of attention to military matters somewhat vitiates the argument of Mr. Bury's excellent chapter (in vol. ii.) on the origin of the system of Themes. He speaks as if there might be several "turmae" stationed in a Theme, while these bodies were really the highest units in the army-organisation of Byzantium, and were each the garrison of a whole Theme.

For the five chapters which deal with the literature of the time we have nothing but praise. They are thorough and sound, without ceasing to be bright and interesting. Mr. Bury has dived deep into his authors—he has probed to the bottom the interminable cantos of Nonnus Dionysiacus, whom he rather likes, and formed some original theories on the even less generally known George of Pisidia. He ingeniously disentangles iambic fragments of a lost work of that writer on the Armenian campaigns of Heraclius, from the midst of the Chronicle of Theophanes. It will be of some comfort to writers of iambics to know

that George, though otherwise a blameless poet enough, systematically violated the rule about the final cretic, which has vexed so many modern minds. The sections dealing with social life and manners are equally meritorious; that treating of the rise and development of the Iconoclastic movement is particularly worthy of notice.

Finally, we have one wish to express, that when Mr. Bury produces a second edition of his work he will add a few maps. Much has been done of late to reconstruct the geography of the East-Roman empire, particularly in Asia Minor. But the classical atlas is practically useless for one who wishes to follow the campaigns of Maurice or Heraclius, and the historical atlas never gives a map of the East on a scale which is of any use.

C. OMAN.

A Trip through the Eastern Caucasus, with a Chapter on the Languages of the Country. By the Hon. John Abercromby (Edward Stanford.)

TRAVELLERS in the Caucasus—from the days of Sir John Chardin, who visited the country at the close of the seventeenth century—have been comparatively rare. Chardin has left us a book full of picturesque narrative. His account of Tiflis is delightful; and readers are not likely to forget the quaint engravings to be found in his fine folio, especially his picture of the grand banquet at that city. Those who travelled in the Caucasus in the nineteenth century have been induced by various motives. Klaproth made a philological tour; Dr. Freshfield and his companions visited it for mountain-climbing; and Mr. Bryce's trip was probably to study the country politically. Mr. Abercromby seems to have been induced to go partly by love of adventure, and partly by philological curiosity. His volume possesses the special interest of dealing with parts of the Caucasus which are seldom seen by travellers. Perhaps Dr. Gustav Radde, the curator of the museum at Tiflis, who has explored many regions of the country, has dealt with them. In the numerous articles which he has contributed to that very interesting periodical, the *Transactions* of the Caucasian section of the Russian Imperial Geographical Society. But, to the best of our knowledge, no English traveller has told us about them.

Unfortunately, there is rather a sameness about Mr. Abercromby's pages, and we carry away a somewhat confused impression. Our author does not meet with any exciting adventures. He is armed with a good passport, and everything goes smoothly. Moreover, he is throughout obliged to rely upon interpreters, not merely for the various Lezghian dialects—only an Uslar would be equal to those—but he does not seem to have possessed a mastery of Russian. We find the want of this knowledge frequently confessed in his pages. If we get a little tired of the "incubus," as he styles the *commis voyageur* from Riga, whom he picked up as a guide, we shall find much that is amusing in the folklore the author has collected, which, we imagine, will be welcome to many. At Akhti, for example (p. 49), he finds sticks with rags attached to tombstones in a cemetery.

"Though I knew the reason why this was done, I wished to find out what explanation Mejid would give, and so put the question to him. He replied they were the tombs of men celebrated for their devoutness and goodness. It was believed to bring one good luck to tie a rag to a stick and attach it to a tomb. Sick people also left rags there, hoping by that means to transfer their sickness or disease to the tomb itself."

Among the Pshavs, a tribe reckoned by ethnologists to belong to the Georgian family, Queen Tamara is held to be a divinity. Travellers in the Caucasus will remember how it is the fashion to attribute all ancient buildings and monuments to this sovereign, who flourished in the twelfth century. Some of the best pages in our author's book on the subject of folklore and local customs are taken from a volume of the series of *Transactions* already alluded to. This publication is full of valuable articles, but they are unfortunately little known to our Western folklorists.

An interesting part of Mr. Abercromby's book is the account of his visit to Kubachi. This village at one time enjoyed a great reputation for the skill of its workers in brass. The local tradition is that they are descendants of some Franks who originally, as the name would seem to imply, came from Europe. Mr. Abercromby considers them to have been Syrians. The earliest information about the inhabitants of Kubachi appears to have been given by a certain Herber, a colonel of artillery, who served in Peter the Great's Persian campaign. In his work on the people of Daghestan he asserted that the ancestors of these villagers were Franks who established themselves in the mountains of Daghestan in the seventh century. The story took various shapes, some declaring that the inhabitants were from Genoa, others that they came from Bohemia or Moravia. This last report so stimulated the curiosity of the Moravian brothers or Herrnhuters, settled at the Sarepta Colony on the Volga, that in 1781 they sent to Kubachi two deputies to establish relations with their Caucasian countrymen and co-religionists. In 1782 the emissaries returned to Sarepta with the information that the people of Kubachi professed Islam, and had nothing in common with the Moravian brothers. Usar did not make any profound study of this language; but, from what he knew of it, declared it to be one of the Akushino-Khaidak dialects, totally unconnected with any European idiom. Weidenbaum thinks that the notion may have arisen from some Roman Catholic converts settled there, the word "Frank" being frequently used to express the followers of the Latin as opposed to the Greek faith. Perhaps some of our readers will remember the photograph of this most picturesque looking little town which is given on p. 194 of Erkert's work. The houses are seen rising tier upon tier in a series of terraces. This kind of building is characteristic of many towns in the Caucasus, and may be seen in parts of Tiflis. Our author gives us descriptions of some of the workmanship of the people of Kubachi; but besides productions in the Oriental style, he found "two large brass chargers of undoubtedly German manufacture," on one of which he discovered a German inscription. He considers that the decline in

Kubachian art is to be attributed to the falling-off of the old demand for costly weapons. Peace reigns in the land. There is no need now for damascened steel helmets, for coats of mail, for elaborately worked swords, guns, and silver pistols! This state of affairs, however depressing for art, is certainly good politically. It is gratifying too, to find that the Caucasus is getting re-peopled after the great drain upon its population caused by the immigration of the Moslem inhabitants into Turkey.

From one of his guides, Akim, Mr. Abercromby must have had a fine opportunity for collecting folklore; but, unfortunately, he was unable to make full use of his advantages:

"Akim beguiled the time, as was his wont, by telling stories, but which were never fully enough translated for me to take down, even if I had had time to stop for the purpose. The most interesting fact connected with these folk-stories was his thorough belief in every incident, however miraculous. For instance, he has not the slightest doubt, though he has never seen it himself, that some trees bleed when they are cut."

One of his tales was that a hunter went out hunting, and for three days saw no game; but on the fourth he saw a stag, at which he fired, but only succeeded in wounding. He followed it up and killed it, when it transformed itself into a beautiful girl, whom he ultimately married. Akim also knew how to read the future in the shoulder-blade of a sheep; for on one occasion he read in one some misfortune which was to happen to them, but which luckily never took place. We wish Mr. Abercromby had given us much more of this folklore collected by himself on the spot, and not merely translated from books.

He is not a bad hand at description, as we see by his account of Derbend on p. 208. For his ethnography he has trusted to the excellent work of Erkert, already mentioned (*Der Kaukasus und seine Völker*, Leipzig, 1887). This may be said for most purposes to be the best work in the field. Weidenbaum's very useful Guide—which is said to be officially inspired—is in Russian (*Putevoditel po Kavkazu*, Tiflis, 1888), and unfortunately a closed book to many. Prof. Kovalevski has also published some valuable papers on communal land systems in the Caucasus.

Mr. Abercromby has added a final chapter on the structure of some of the Caucasian languages, all of the Lesghian family, according to Erkert's classification, who, we believe, follows in the main Baron Usar. This *savant* divides with Schiefner the honours in the study of these perplexing tongues. Usar (1816—1875) began his labours in 1861, and continued them till his death. He investigated the following languages: Abkhassian, Chechen, Avar, Lak, Khürkilin Kürin, and Tabasaran. He is thus pre-eminently the great authority for what may be called the Lesghian family. Unfortunately, his books are difficult to obtain. Some of them were published in lithograph at Tiflis. The labours of Schiefner are included in the *Mémoires* of the St. Petersburg Academy. Of some of the papers of the latter Mr. Abercromby has made use, giving a summary of those which deal with Ud, Kürin, Hürkan, Kasikumik, Avar, Chechen, and

Tush. The last language is considered by some to be an outlying member of the Georgian family; but it must be confessed that it exhibits great variations. It seems mixed with the tongue of the Chechens. But the Georgian group is itself very loosely defined, for Suanetian and Mingrelian differ greatly from Karthweli or Georgian properly so called. For Mingrelian we have as yet only the valuable "Mingrelian Studies" (*Mingrelskie Etjudi*) of Prof. Tsagarelli, of St. Petersburg (St. Petersburg, 1880)—a work referred to by Mr. Abercromby—and the few notes given by Brosset in his *Chronique Géorgienne*; and in Suanetian there is nothing but a Primer published at Tiflis in 1864, and the Vocabulary collected by Consul Peacock in 1877. The "prefixing, infixing, and suffixing," as Mr. Abercromby has it, of characteristic letters in nouns, verbs, &c., reminds one very much of the strange building up of the Georgian verb as it has been explained by Prof. Tsagarelli: thus, *m-i quar-s-ar*, "I love thee"; literally "thou to me dear art." This power of incorporation seems paralleled by such expressions as *nuni v-itsira dila uroi*, "I sold my horse"; literally, "by me it-sold-I my horse" (p. 307). In this respect, and in their want of grammatical gender, these languages resemble Georgian. Mr. Abercromby has done a service in collecting the most important observations in the valuable papers of Schiefner, but naturally struggles with the difficulty of the task of giving a grammatical sketch of these rugged and peculiar languages. He can hardly be said to have made their principles clear. Why did he not give us some vocabularies collected on the spot, as Consul Peacock has done? Unfortunately the Caucasian languages—with the exception of Karthweli or Georgian in the restricted sense, with its rich literature—require to be investigated a great deal more before we can generalise about them. They await the coming philologist.

In his concluding remarks Mr. Abercromby propounds the view that these languages have much in common with the Old Media; but the arguments by which he supports this view are not convincing. There are two good maps appended to the book: the ethnological one is useful, but it cannot be compared with that of Erkert. The woodcuts strike us as rather clumsily executed.

W. R. MORFILL.

Autumn Songs. By Violet Fane. (Chapman & Hall.)

THIS book of Violet Fane's is very obviously the work of a woman: it is feminine alike in its merits and in its defects. For the most part it is written in a style of fluent, heedless impetuosity, dropping into fineness as if by accident, but often becoming fine; with a real personal feeling, struggling through, rather than informing, the verse itself—the very dashes, fluttering hither and thither in rich profusion over the pages, being the typographical sign of a certain looseness of construction. With this writer, the passage seems unconscious from a grotesque commonplace about

"an inky wave
Of inspiration on the virgin page"

to a genuine felicity in the selection and use

of just the word really wanted rather than its conventional synonym—as in the occurrence of the word “burdocks,” with real heightening of effect, in place of the usual “weeds” or “flowers,” when some pathetic allusion is made to the dead bones lying underneath them.

Violet Fane is not an artist, but she is interesting. The charm I find in the book is in its personal quality—the attraction of a woman really speaking to one. And the attitude of mind is in itself attractive. It has a quality of tossed and uncertain energy, impatiently unresigned, with petulant and charming quarrels against life, changing colour and occasion as the mood changes. It has at the same time a frank vision of things as they are, and an audacious determination to believe them what they should be—a woman's masterful way of dealing with realities. There is shrewdness too, cleverness, a dash of humour, a quaint and sprightly fancy. And, above all, there is warmth—warm feeling which is really genuine and often effective, though not always expressed in the convincing way. Here is a sonnet—ornamented with that wild feminine punctuation—which speaks straight, and says vividly what it means to say:

“THE SLAVE TURNED TYRANT.

“Should you despise her for that,—born to sway
She serves instead;—at your beloved feet
Meek and obedient, that she takes her seat,
And,—as you frown or smile,—is grave or gay;—

A word,—a look,—can darken all her day
Or make night glorious,—but, as thus you mete,
Conscious of might,—alternate bitter and sweet.

Careless of what you do, or what you say,—
Think, Master mine! not thus, in by-gone days
Dared your hand smite her, or your accents check

The love you craved for! . . . Hers has
been the fault

Who raised her slave to sit above the salt,
And so, she may not chide, but only prays
For mercy,—with your heel upon her neck.”

There are other pieces, more elaborate than this, in which the passion becomes dramatic. “She will not wake!” and “False or True?” are both striking: the latter is unfortunate in seeming a sort of echo of certain of Browning's *Dramatis Personae*, the former challenges comparison, not to its advantage, with work so perfect in its kind as some of Mr. Coventry Patmore's graver and more intense poetry. In a lower key, but perhaps one of the most really, though quietly, successful pieces in the book, is the poem to “Clara (Aged Seventeen)” —a piece with a certain grave mellowness, a sober charm, about it. Personal feeling has here achieved form, appropriate form; and the mother, writing about her daughter, conveys to us exactly her own sensation before the somewhat mournful mystery of growth:

“Yet, sometimes,—as I watch her standing thus,
I ask myself, half-sadly: Where is she,—
That other Clara,—who was once with us,—
Whose head could scarcely reach above my knee? . . .

“I seek her in the shady orchard walk,—
I miss her pattering footsteps on the floor,—
Yet hear the echo of her baby-talk
And read her height upon the nursery door.

“No curly head comes to the window-sill
As once,—responsive to my loving call,—
Tho' there the painted bars are fasten'd still
That saved the pretty nestling from a fall;—

“But, thro' them, somehow,—little Clara fled,—
And, every day, I mark, with new surprise,
The stately maiden, sent me in her stead
With pensive mien and earnest waiting eyes,—

“A woman grown, and nursing in her breast
Haply,—a thousand fond imaginings,—
Her wings all ready plumed to leave the nest,
Her fancy eager to outstrip her wings.”

Violet Fane has also, as we have said, a humorous shrewdness; and we see it in “An Egotist's Creed,” in the “Fable.” The faint charm of sentiment and fancy which clings, a vague perfume, about her work, is seen in “A Homeless Love,” and, especially, “The Mer-Baby.” This little poem is as quaint and pretty as the picture by Miss Dorothy Tennant for which it was written.

ARTHUR SYMONS.

TWO BOOKS UPON MODERN ECONOMICS.

The English Poor: a Sketch of their Social and Economic History. By T. Mackay. (John Murray.)

The Land and the Community. By the Rev. S. W. Thackeray. (Kegan Paul, Trench & Co.)

BOTH Mr Mackay and Mr. Thackeray have had the same starting-point in their inquiries—the fact that the great majority of the people are unpropertied, living as wage-earners from hand to mouth. They have both investigated the historical causes which have produced such a state of society, and to a large extent the evidence upon which they rely is similar. Following with especial interest the history of property in land, they both trace “the gradual divorce of the English peasant from the soil,” and the growth of the great class of landless labourers. They are nearly in agreement as to the analysis of the evil. The possession of property, says Mr. Mackay, means that the possessor has the right or opportunity of labour or employing labour; while men who are mere wage earners have not this right or opportunity, but live in a condition of precarious dependence. The right to land, says Mr. Thackeray, means the permission to labour; the denial of the right results in inability to obtain a sufficiency of remunerative employment, and involves ultimately the denial of the right to life. How the mass of the people may become independent by securing opportunities of labour is the problem which each has set himself to assist in solving. Yet, though they have thus looked at the same facts and have been similarly impressed with the extent and character of the existing evil, these two writers might have been born and bred in different planets, so completely are they separate, the one from the other, not only in their solution of the problem, but in their habit of mind and their views of fundamental facts of human nature. Restore the land to the community, says Mr. Thackeray, and you will remove the causes and conditions which now tend to create the enormous gulf of inequality which separates the rich from the poor. That inequality, says Mr. Mackay, has come about because the socialistic legislation of centuries has prevented nature from taking her own beneficent course of weeding out the unfit; we must retrace our steps and learn to rely upon individual effort, self-reliance, and thrift.

Of Mr. Thackeray's *Land and the Community* it is enough to say that the author is a follower of Mr. Henry George (who writes a commendatory preface); and that after giving a superficial and not always correct account of the history of land-holding in England, and laying down certain broad statements of natural rights, which are supported by quotations from Mr. Herbert Spencer, Magna Charta, the Holy Scriptures, and other sources, he proceeds to advocate the appropriation of ground-rents by taxation and the application of the proceeds for the benefit of the whole community. As for compensation, Mr. Thackeray would give none in a direct form, but he finds that the compensations which would accrue indirectly to landlords would be sufficiently ample.

Mr. Mackay's work deserves to be spoken of with more respect; for it has the merit of dealing with realities. It is an emphatic plea for individualism, written for the most part with a moderation which in individualists is very rare. No one who has in mind the working of the poor law in the beginning of this century, and the incalculable evil which then was wrought on English character, and who observes the steady growth in our own day of a socialistic optimism, will regret that we have still left among us economists of the strictest sect, preaching to the people and their legislators the wholesome doctrine that moral and material progress must come mainly through individual effort. We should be glad, indeed, if every member of parliament and county councillor were to pass through a phase (not too prolonged) of Herbert Spencerism. In so far as they remind us of the disturbing and often disastrous effect of state intervention, such books as that of Mr. Mackay serve a very useful purpose. But to say that it helps us much in the solution of social and industrial problems is a different thing. There runs through it the assumption that state intervention, whatever may be the counterbalancing good in particular cases, necessarily results in a diminished sense of individual responsibility and a relaxing of individual effort. Is not this a begging of the question? May the result not be that the effort of individuals takes a new direction, in which it is more effective? We leave to the state the repression of crime, and the individual does not suffer a deterioration of character because he is thus protected against robbery and assault. Why should the effect of the Factory Acts and other similar legislation be different? Is not each case to be tried on its own merits? As to Mr. Mackay's main doctrine, if he were a less serious writer, we should take it as a bit of grim humour. Social philosophy is surely a poor study if it can teach us only that the hope of the poor lies in the acquisition of property by the practice of thrift. Dealing with a book of half-truths, we feel inclined to oppose another half-truth; and say that the practice of thrift acts as a check on the progress of the class of wage-earners, that their aim should be to raise their standard of living, and that a means of doing so is to live intelligently up to their income.

It would be an injustice to Mr. Mackay if no notice were taken of some fine extensions of individualism which he proposes. In the obscurity of a foot-note he suggests that the

state, by lending its machinery for the recovery of debts, helps to keep the incompetent employer from extinction, and that some curtailment in the state guarantee of business contracts would do much to rid commerce of dishonest traders; but this is hazarded only as a pious opinion. In sober earnest, however, he proposes as a means of reforming our system of land tenure that the state should refuse to enforce any contract whatsoever with regard to land. There is a good deal to be said for this bold idea; but why, on Mr. Mackay's principles, should the state enforce any contracts at all?

G. P. MACDONELL.

Rhigas Phraios; the Protomartyr of Greek Independence. By Mrs. Edmonds. (Longmans.)

THIS is a biographical sketch of a man whose name is held in veneration by all Greeks, but who is hardly more than a name to modern Englishmen. This, however, was not the case during at least the second quarter of the present century, when his stirring song, *Δεῦρε, παῖδες τῶν Ἑλλήνων*, was familiar to our countrymen through Byron's spirited version, "Sons of the Greeks, arise."

The history of Constantine Rhigas is, in brief, the following. He was born at Veles-tino, in Thessaly, the ancient Phærae, which lies to the north-west of the Gulf of Volo—probably about the year 1754, though the date of his birth cannot be accurately ascertained. His father was a man of some wealth and position; and he gave his son a good education at the seminary at Kissos, on the eastern slopes of Mount Pelion, in the district of Magnesia, where the Greek communities enjoyed a condition of prosperity which was hardly known elsewhere. It was here that he imbibed the love of learning and the patriotism which distinguished him in later years; and he never failed to acknowledge the debt of gratitude which he owed to his instructors—excellent specimens of those schoolmasters who, both at that time and in the Greek-speaking provinces of Turkey at the present day, have done more than any other class of men to elevate the people, and keep alive in them the sentiment of nationality.

After he was grown up, he left Thessaly, because of the persecutions to which he himself and his father were exposed at the hands of the Turks in that neighbourhood; for the Koniarates—as the Thessalian Turks are called, since they are the descendants of a colony which was transferred thither from Konieh in Asia Minor—are notoriously among the most fanatical of the Mussulmans in Europe. He had already conceived the project of liberating his countrymen from their oppressors, and now he set forth with the object of devoting his life to the furtherance of it. After visiting Mount Athos, in order to obtain the sanction of religion for his work, he proceeded to Bucharest, where he soon became noted for his great literary acquirements; for he was not only perfect master of the French language, which he spoke with the same facility as he did his own, but was also well versed in the classical writers of Greece and Rome, and in the best modern authors of Germany and Italy. In

1790, when Nicolas Mavrogenes, a man of great capacity, was appointed Hospodar of Wallachia, the talents of Rhigas attracted his attention, and he made him his secretary. Under these auspices, and, as it would appear, not without the cognisance of his chief, Rhigas founded the Hetairia—a secret society for promoting the freedom of Greece; and subsequently to the occupation of Bucharest by the Russians and the fall of Mavrogenes, he betook himself to Vienna, which was then full of wealthy Greek merchants and of young students of that race. Among these he soon aroused a strong feeling of patriotism, and now the work of the Hetairia was vigorously prosecuted—but in secret, because the Austrian government was in alliance with Turkey, and strongly opposed to any aspirations for freedom. The stirring songs and addresses of Rhigas were printed at night with every care to prevent discovery, and were afterwards circulated, with fictitious titles, by special emissaries throughout Greece, where they excited the strongest enthusiasm.

But, as Rhigas was well aware that it was impossible for the Greeks to win their freedom for themselves, he turned his thoughts towards France as the champion of liberty at that time, and made a direct appeal to Buonaparte to assist them. On receiving from that general an invitation to meet him at Venice, he started in 1797 for Trieste, after sending on before him the boxes which contained his papers, and among them his communications with the Hetairia. This incident brought his career to a sudden close. By ill-luck his papers fell into the hands of the Prefect of Trieste; and, after they had been examined, Rhigas on his arrival was arrested as a conspirator. On this he appealed to the generosity of the Emperor Francis, but to no purpose, for orders were returned from Vienna that he should be delivered up to the Turkish authorities. He was, therefore, conducted to Belgrade, and the Pasha of that place condemned him to be thrown, manacled, into the Danube; but, owing to the powerful resistance which he made to those who would have dragged him to execution, the mode of punishment was changed, and he was shot in prison. Immediately before his death he uttered these memorable words: "I sha'l now die as a soldier. I have sown seed enough, and the time will come when it will sprout, and my nation will gather its sweet fruit." "The noblest death," it is said, "is to die in vain"; and this was true in Rhigas's case, if by "in vain" is meant with no designs accomplished or purposes realised. But his prophecy was verified, for within a quarter of a century from his death the War of Independence commenced; and nothing contributed so much to this as the desire of freedom which was propagated by his songs, and the principles which he had so eloquently advocated.

The chief authority for Rhigas's life is his biography, by Perrhaevos, who was his disciple and companion during the most important period of his career; but additional information with regard to him has been obtained by Prof. N. G. Polites, of Athens, who visited his native place, Veles-tino, in order to collect and compare the numerous traditions which still exist there with regard to him. Mrs. Edmonds, in her simple and faithful narrative, has made use of these sources with

judgment and a strict regard to historic truth; and she has done good service in depicting a heroic character, in which singleness of purpose and self-devotion were combined with marked sagacity, moderation, and strength of will.

H. F. TOZER.

NEW NOVELS.

Duncan Moray, Farmer. By Sophie F. F. Veitch. In 2 vols. (Alexander Gardner.)

Master of His Fate. By J. Maclaren Cobban. (Blackwood.)

A Game of Bluff. By Henry Murray. (Chatto & Windus.)

Broughton. By A. S. Arnold. In 3 vols. (Ward & Downey.)

James Vraile. By Jeffery C. Jeffery. In 2 vols. (W. H. Allen.)

Engaged to be Married. By L. T. Meade. (Simpkin, Marshall, & Co.)

The Lost Ring. By M. Clerke Melville. (Nelson.)

MISS VEITCH has, in *Duncan Moray, Farmer*, returned to what seems her favourite ideal of a love-affair—the passion of a girl of gentle blood and refined nature for a physically and morally strong man who is beneath her in social status. *Duncan Moray* to some extent, therefore, recalls *Angus Graeme*; but it is greatly superior as a work of art. Here and there in Miss Veitch's first novel there was exhibited a tendency, if not to rant, at all events to Rhodian rhetoric. In *Duncan Moray*, there is absolutely nothing of the kind. It is the compactest, the most interesting and, all things considered, the most satisfactory—although *The Dean's Daughter* still remains the cleverest—of the novels published by this very promising author. It proves, above all things, that Miss Veitch can preserve a secret for nearly three volumes. It is only towards the close of her book that the reader, who is familiar with mysteries even of *The House on the Marsh* type, begins to entertain the idea that Mr. Elliott, the father of as loveable a heroine as ever figured in a Scotch novel, is one and the same with that unmitigated scoundrel and villain, James Carfrae. Mr. Elliott has quite as much unscrupulousness in his composition of the kind which, perhaps unjustly, is designated Napoleonic, as Jim the Penman or the Master of Ballantrae; and he is perfectly original. It is not easy to forgive him his first murder, when he is in Australia, and known as James Carfrae. It was committed from the lowest of motives. But it is easy to conceive of a desperate man removing such a danger and stumbling-block as, in the end, the father of Duncan Moray became to Mr. Elliott. The arrival of Nemesis—tipsy—in the shape of the brother of the murdered man, Henderson, and the suicide of Elliott himself, are episodes admirably designed and equally well executed. Plot apart, *Duncan Moray, Farmer* is notable for its carefully finished Scotch portraits. There is, perhaps, too much of Antoninus Pius in the elder Moray, and even too much of Marcus Aurelius in the younger; but both have a substratum of that peculiar Scotch sweetness of disposition which is quite com-

patible with Calvinism, and need not necessarily be dissociated from high cheek bones. Lady Sinclair, the friend of both Duncan Moray and Isabel Elliott when they are in difficulties, is also a very lifelike sketch of a level-headed, warm-hearted Scotch lady of the old school, who despises Mrs. Grundy, but is, nevertheless, not above enjoying a bit of gossip.

Regarded as a *tour de force*, Mr. Maclaren Cobban's *Master of his Fate* is undoubtedly a success; but it is greatly to be hoped that, having achieved it, so very able and promising a writer will seek fresh woods and pastures new. For one thing, the moral vampire, Julius Courtney, who is sufficiently "master of his fate" to commit suicide when it is desirable for the sake of others as well as of himself that he should do so, recalls inevitably, though unreasonably, the everlasting Dr. Jekyll. For another, Julius's dissertations on, and dissections of, himself are wearisome even if they are weird. Nora, however, who is as much of a heroine as Mr. Cobban allows himself in *A Master of His Fate*, is really a very sweet and thoroughly English girl; and, doubtless, her creator will in the future be able to place her—or a twin sister—in a pleasanter and wholesomer environment.

Originality of plot is the one redeeming feature of *A Game of Bluff*, which is essentially an unpleasant and almost unreadable story. As a scoundrel, Ralph Purden cannot be said to be altogether a novelty, although many of his characteristics are not so much those of an Englishman as of an American living in one of the Pacific States. He is certainly not the first man who has sought, by means of bigamy, to get rid of a wife of whom he has grown weary. But there is decided originality in the idea of his being ennobled into something approaching to self-sacrifice by an illicit and, in every sense, indefensible passion. It may be admitted, too, that several of the portraits in *A Game of Bluff*—especially Ralph's irretrievably mean and Bohemian brother-in-law, his austere and sincere relative and patron, the very down-right Arkinstall, and the fascinating and guileless Elsie—are well sketched. But the story, as an artistic whole, is a disappointment, and suggests that Mr. Murray has gone beyond his depth. He must beware of a tendency to fine and affected writing, which is disclosed in such a sentence as "Before an *Areopagus* of his own sex Ralph would have found as easy and complete an excuse for his *mésalliance* as any man could need."

Broughton is as well-intentioned, ill-constructed, and inartistic a story as has been published even in these days. Mr. A. S. Arnold, who has already published a well-intentioned, ill-constructed, and inartistic *Life of Carlyle*, has got hold of some ethical ideas. These, doubtless in obedience to the cardinal doctrines of the "Philosophy of Clothes," he has embodied in various persons, including a bad but reformable squire, his daughter, his young saviour and fiancée, the woman he has ruined, and a certain wandering and more or less murderous Joe. These impersonations of ideas wander about over three volumes; and such of them as are not killed off meet in the final chapter, where we have visions of "that perfect state which is immeasurably beyond

all finite comprehension, where the unfathomable mysteries of life will be explained, and all the amazing contradictions of human nature reconciled."

There is a very great amount of ability—and of all kinds needful in fiction—in *James Vraile*; and if its author be a new writer his name is unfamiliar) he will, in all probability, have a career before him. This is, indeed, a most melancholy story. James Vraile, a man who recalls at once General Gordon and William Dobbin, and is of the stuff of which heroes and martyrs are made, marries a pretty butterfly of a girl, who does not appreciate him, and elopes with a heartless, smooth-tongued civilian. He then devotes himself to his little boy; the child dies; finally Vraile dies himself. This "Story of a Life" is therefore, to all intents and purposes a tragedy, relieved almost solely by the moral greatness of the chief sufferer. But the evolution, both of the plot of the tragedy and of the character of Vraile, is managed with admirable skill. There is nothing unnatural even in the manner in which Vraile heaps coals of fire on the head of the man who has ruined him. Certain of the rather subsidiary characters in *James Vraile*—more especially the crabbed but devoted Uncle Ben and Edith Dare, the daughter of Vraile's enemy—are quite worthy of a place in the same gallery as that which contains the unfortunate martyr himself. Some of the scenes are laid in India, others are laid in England. It would be difficult to say which seem the truer to life. Mr. Jeffery has also managed to introduce the Salvation Army into his story, without either sneering at or gushing effusively over that remarkable body. He has a gift of genuinely satiric characterisation; but he must beware lest it run away with him.

"Mrs. Bompas," we are told, "had retired from a wharf in the Mediterranean on the death of her consort, the successful coal merchant, choosing St. Dogwell's as a retreat, because she was distantly connected with the whole county, and because her education had been neglected at a school in Chatterleigh, the nearest town of importance and her birthplace—reasons which entitled her to county family distinction, and gave her a right to feel thoroughly at home."

There is something more than "smartness" in this; but there is a danger lest that something should degenerate into "smartness."

Engaged to be Married is a remarkably good specimen of the kind of story that is written expressly for the girls of the book muslin—or, perhaps, one should nowadays say ponce silk—type. There is in it Emmy, who is sweet and strong; there is Dorothea, who is pretty and weak; there is the ogre Sir Percival; there is, in fact, the usual crowd of folks whose chief business, at least in stories, is to criticise engagements and marriages. And, of course, all ends as it should end. Emmy's captain proves faithful to her, in spite of the subterfuges that Sir Percival resorts to, with a view to compelling him to marry money in the person of Rosamund Hotspur; and Dorothea marries her artist, and is more or less happy afterwards. *Engaged to be Married* is, of course, gracefully written.

A Lost Ring belongs to the class of ecclesiastico-historical romances, but is greatly

superior to average works of that class. It deals with the times of Andrew Melville—that Melville who, in the opinion of many, was to Knox what the Jacobin was to the Girondin, and who, we are told in this chronicle, "at nineteen, having exhausted the intellectual provision of his own university (St. Andrews), sought the famous schools of Paris, and became there as distinguished among scholars as he had been at home." It would be unfair to reveal the secret of the plot, inasmuch as that secret is in effect the whole of it. It is enough to say that the leading villains are remarkably well drawn, and that the narrative of the adventures of Carco, otherwise "Mr. Cammill," recalls *Kidnapped* in some of its passages. Will Green, the remarkable compound of scoundrelism and scholarship who appears in the very first chapter, is new even in Scotch fiction. The author of *The Lost Ring* seems to be somewhat handicapped by his purpose, yet he—if it be he—has done so very well in it that a great deal better may be expected from him in the future.

WILLIAM WALLACE.

SOME HISTORICAL BOOKS.

Calendars of the Proceedings of the Committee for Compounding, &c. 1643-60. General Proceedings. Edited by M. A. Everett Green. (Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office.) Like all Mrs. Everett Green's works, the present volume is the result of great industry and of admirable power of condensation. It is none the less valuable because its detailed information is so various that no general description will fit it. Each inquirer will find help in it according to his tastes. It is better to give a specimen than to attempt to gain a general prospect. Two entries, one at p. 60 and the other at p. 85, give lists of sequestered estates, the one in Wirral Hundred, in Cheshire, and the other in Gloucestershire. In both of these we have an estimate of the value of the estates after and before the Civil War. From both we derive a precisely similar result, namely, that the letting value of land had diminished almost precisely 50 per cent. Figures, however, are deceptive, and Mrs. Green's Calendar does not solve the question whether the diminution was general, or special to sequestered estates, where there might be an objection to pay the full rent to the sequestrators, lest a turn of fortune should bring back the old proprietor to claim the whole rental as due to himself. Fortunately, a letter of Sir Roger Burgoyne among the Verney MSS. solves the question. From this it appears that London house rent had in 1644 declined in exactly the same proportion, and we may, therefore, trace the fall of rentals to general causes.

If the Memoir of George Byng, Lord Torrington, which Prof. Laughton has just edited with loving care for the Camden Society, had been the work of one skilled in composition or possessed of the gift of telling a story with some approach to effect, its interest for the general reader would have been heightened. Its authorship is invested with some mystery; for it is evidently the composition of a certain navy expert connected with official life, indeed engaged in the actual working of the Admiralty, but the writer's name has hitherto escaped inquiry. The most telling passages in the narrative are those setting out the intrigues by which the English navy came over to the cause of Dutch William, and describing the capture of Gibraltar. The memoir ends

abruptly, before Byng had been raised to the peerage. Though no mention of the fact occurs on the title-page, the volume is supplemented by some extracts from a journal by the Rev. Thomas Pocock, a relation of Byng by marriage, and a navy chaplain at this date. Prof. Laughton says that he counted twenty different spellings of Sir Cloudisley Shovell's Christian name. Did not one antiquary find 140 variances in the spelling of the name of Birmingham, and another enumerate even more differences in the name of Mainwaring?

Old English Catholic Missions. By John Orlebar Payne. (Burns & Oates.) The eighteenth century is a dark period in the history of the Roman Catholic body in England. From the date of Henry VIII.'s quarrel with the Pope until the accession of George I., the extreme danger in which every priest stood of a cruel death, and the dread which must have hung over every layman, renders the time memorable to every student of religious history. With the advent of the eighteenth century milder days followed. The two risings in favour of the exiled royal family pressed hardly on men who were in no way connected with the insurrections; but Englishmen had improved since the days of Charles II. Titus Oates and his crew had no representatives in the '15 or the '45. The men who suffered for treason under the first and second Georges were, whatever we think of the politics of those days, all of them in some sort legally guilty. Mr. Payne's *Old Catholic Missions* eschews politics. His scope is limited, but the work is well done. It will form most useful material for anyone who shall undertake to write a history of the English Roman Catholic body under the penal laws. It would appear that in the earlier times there were few places where priests were regularly stationed. London and some other large towns were probably never without priests, and here and there a great landowner, such as Belted Will Howard, contrived to keep a chaplain in his house; but such people were thinly scattered, and even to them it must have been accompanied with no little danger. The common custom was for the priest to pass on in disguise from one country house to another. His arrival was secretly notified to the Catholics round about; and, as soon as his ministerial work was ended, he departed in disguise to some other place where he knew that he would be gladly welcomed, and every precaution taken for his safety. The priest's hiding hole was in those days a needful adjunct to every Catholic mansion. Some few, we believe, exist yet. Many have been destroyed during the present century. For several generations the Roman Catholic church has been rigorous as to keeping records of baptisms, marriages, and burials; but in times such as those of which we have been speaking it was very difficult for accurate registers to be preserved. It is not possible in many cases to ascertain when priests became permanently settled at any given place. Secrecy was so necessary at the time that all evidence has perished. We believe, however, that, when no evidence exists to the contrary, it may be assumed that the date of the earliest register marks the appointment of the first priest who was stationed on the mission to which it relates. Few of these begin earlier than the year 1700. In 1836 a Royal Commission was issued for making inquiries as to the non-parochial registers then in existence. It was the desire of the government that all such registers should be deposited in Somerset House. Many of those belonging to Protestant Nonconformists were given up; but when the Catholic Vicars Apostolic were applied to, they pointed out reasons why it would be inconvenient to part with them. We imagine that at the first it was the intention of the

authorities that none should be surrendered. As they were private property the matter was entirely in the hands of the bishops. In or before 1840 a change of view seems to have taken place, for Mr. Payne has found a large collection of these interesting documents at Somerset House. From his description of them they seem to have been kept in an irregular manner; but there can be no doubt that, as records of matters of fact, they are as truthful as those kept by the clergy of the Established Church. The entries with regard to marriage are of special importance. The decrees of the Council of Trent relating to marriage had, as a matter of course, no effect in England; and, therefore, until the passing of the Marriage Act of 1753, nothing was absolutely necessary beyond consent of the parties. It is not easy to tell how Roman Catholic marriages were solemnised before the passing of that memorable statute. Many are certainly entered in the parochial registers; but it does not, therefore, follow that in all cases they were performed by the minister of the parish. It is probable that in some cases where the squire, the parson, and the priest, were on neighbourly terms with each other, an entry would be made in the "church books"; for it must be borne in mind that until 1753 the signature of the celebrant was not required, and is, indeed, very rarely to be found. For genealogical purposes Mr. Payne's volume will be found most useful. It contains numerous entries relating to the great Yorkshire house of Scrope, some of them proving facts for which, we believe, there is no evidence to be had elsewhere. In fact, there are very few great Catholic houses of the North for whose life-histories *Old Catholic Missions* does not furnish help.

MR. WALTER RYE, whose published works for 1889 were enumerated in a recent number of the ACADEMY, has added yet another to that list. This is a catalogue of the principal MSS. relating to Norfolk in his own library, superbly printed in folio, with numerous plates and woodcuts. Many of his cherished possessions came from the Frere sale, when the genealogical and antiquarian MSS. of Bokenham, Peter le Neve, Anthony Norris, and T. Martin were first made known, and at the same time dispersed. Perhaps we ought not to say "dispersed"; for, with the exception of a few acquired for the British Museum or the Record Office, the most important portion are now at Winchester House, Putney, where their present owner—in marked contrast with their former owners—allows them to be consulted by historical students. Among the Frere MSS we may specially mention the Histories of the Hundreds of East and West Flegg, Happing, and Tunstead, compiled by Anthony Norris about the middle of the last century, which are about tenfold more copious than the corresponding chapters of Blomefield. These Mr. Rye hopes before long to print, with additions from his own collections. Another MS. volume which Mr. Rye must regard with mingled feelings is Le Neve's Calendar of the Feet of Fines for Norfolk, which covers the ground he has himself gone over again with so much labour and expense, and which also includes some notes of fines now lost. But space fails us to record all the treasures here set out, with careful indexes. We doubt whether any in the long roll of English antiquaries has ever before placed his collections at the service of fellow-students with such generosity as Mr. Walter Rye.

TRANSLATIONS FROM THE CLASSICS.

Selections from the Greek Anthology. Edited by Graham R. Tomson. (Walter Scott.) This is a very pretty addition to Mr. Sharp's "Canterbury Poets"; and the editor's intro-

duction relates in some twenty-five short pages nearly all that is known of those multitudinous asteroids called the Greek Anthologia. We agree that if the Anthology be, as Longfellow said, "one of the saddest of books," it is also, as the editor calls it, "one of the most entirely human." But there is a vein of contemporary affection in the praise given to Zeus (Introd. p. xxi.) that

"there is no one to portray for us 'The Real Rufinus'; no dishonourable ghoul to 'howl up' and reprint some old, forgotten love-letters of 'pure Simonides,' proving him thereby not pure, in very sooth, but most unworthy—a weak and garrulous sensualist."

Now, really, one of the best functions of the Anthology is to cure intelligent and imaginative minds of a mawkish interest in the amours of Byron and Shelley, in the mis-published love-letters of Keats, in "the Harriet question," and all the rest of it—yet here, in a preface which will be, and ought to be, read, we have those miserable topics re-suggested in this deprecatory way. *κόσμον ἢ σιγῇ φέρεται*. The bulk of the translations may be referred to four persons—Dr. R. Garnett, Miss Alma Strettell, Mr. Andrew Lang, and Mr. W. M. Hardinge. Mr. J. A. Symonds, Mr. E. Myers, Mr. Goldwin Smith, Prof. Lewis Campbell, are also represented, as well as some of our older writers. Of the first four, Mr. Lang shows the most evenly good craftsmanship throughout. He is nowhere better than in the rendering (Introd., p. xxviii.) of Meleager's lament for Heliodora. Miss Strettell is less evenly good; but at times writes admirably, as on p. 129, where she is rendering a sighing epitaph of Leonidas of Tarentum. Mr. Hardinge relapses often into very ordinary versification; but when he is bright, as in the version of Meleager on p. 155, he is very bright indeed. Yet here, we think, the form of the original poem is unduly interfered with. Dr. Garnett was certainly inspired with point and humour in rendering (p. 117) Leonidas thus:

"Menodotis' portrait here is kept;
Most odd it is
How very like to all the world, except
Menodotis."

But for sheer incisiveness we prefer the version of Nicarchus, by H. Wellesley, on p. 192.

"The screech-owl sings; death follows at her cries:
Demophilus strikes up; the screech-owl dies."
It is a pretty little book: sparks without smoke.

The Argonautica of Apollonius Rhodius. Translated into English Prose by Edward P. Coleridge. (Bell.) It would be curious to know how many people in the world have ever read Apollonius through. We should not like to affirm that Mr. Coleridge stands alone, but he must be one of a small band. It is not that Apollonius is not worth reading, but that what he has to tell has been very well told otherwise. Kingsley's "Argonauts" in the *Heroes*, and Morris's *Life and Death of Jason*, have told to thousands with applause a story which very few among those thousands will ever trace back, even with Mr. Coleridge's help, to its main origin, the *Argonautica* of Apollonius. As Mr. Coleridge points out, the latter part of the adventurers' voyage, as described by Apollonius, is neither traceable nor possible. You cannot, you never could, "row through riverways right across Dacia, Moesia, Illyria, and Dalmatia into the Adriatic" from the Danube. But, after all, this is only a legendary poem about an early voyage. The journey is not impossible, though it certainly involved the building of more than one Argo, and a good deal of foot travelling, too. Argo, one and indivisible, is just the extra touch of poetry that gives the legend its charm, while as history it

may be discounted. Mr. Coleridge has studied, we should say, good models of prose translation. Witness the transit of Argo through the Symplegades (Book ii., p. 72):

"So she sprang forward twice as far as any other ship would have yielded to rowers, and the cars bent like curved bows as the heroes strained. In that instant the vaulted wave was past them, and she at once was riding over the furious billow like a roller, plunging headlong forward o'er the trough of the sea. But the eddying current stayed the ship in the midst of The Clashers, and they quaked on either side, and thundered, and the ship-timbers throbbed. Then did Athene with her left hand hold the stubborn rock apart, while with her right she thrust them through upon their course; and the ship shot through the air like a winged arrow. Yet the rocks, ceaselessly dashing together, crushed off, in passing, the tip of the carved stern."

This is spirited; yet, in the final sentence, we must remark that it was Argo that was passing, not the rocks.

The Works of Flavius Josephus. Whiston's Translation, revised by the Rev. A. R. Shilleto. Life of Josephus. Antiquities of the Jews. In 3 vols. (Bell.) The old-fashioned and inaccurate translation by Whiston (1737) of "the learned and authentic Jewish historian and celebrated warrior" certainly needs revision if it is at all to hold its ground against the version of Trail and Taylor (1851); but we doubt whether the present revision is such as to ensure success. The editor promises to amend Whiston's baldness, prune and curtail his archaisms (!), correct his misspellings and mistranslations, and keep close to the text where he has been turgid and paraphrastic. Mr. Shilleto has, no doubt, overhauled the old book, and put right many obvious blunders; but he has by no means corrected it wherever correction was desirable, nor are all his changes changes for the better. Whiston knew enough of Roman usage to have doubts about making "Julius Cains" in Josephus xiv. 10, § 8, to be both praetor and consul (a translation of *στρατηγὸς ἑταρος*); but Mr. Shilleto shows no doubts. In many other matters, where independence would have been desirable, he follows him unquestioningly. On the other hand, no exception need be taken (in xx., 5, § 4) to Whiston's simple old phrase which tells how Cumanus felt "fear lest the multitude should go into a sedition"; but Mr. Shilleto must needs alter this to the slangy equivalent—"fearing that the multitude would go in for another riot." It is no doubt better to have his version than Whiston's, because it is founded on a newer text—though not the newest; but we still want a scholar who shall translate Josephus with full knowledge of technicalities and with decent respect for the English language.

Versions and Imitations in Greek and Latin. By William Wardlaw Waddell. (Glasgow: Maclehose.) This is a little book of a kind that was more common some years ago than at present. Originating, as the Latin preface leads us to suppose, in the competitions and rivalries of studious youth, it has been worked up and expanded in the writer's maturity, and shows the graceful imitative taste which classical studies so often leave as their memorial—too often as their sole memorial. Versions of Ariosto in Homeric Greek; pretty adaptations of such poems as "Begone Dull Care" into the style of the pseudo-Anacreon; Froissart's description of Sir John Assueton's exploit against the French knights, rendered into Herodotean prose (is *ἡρωικὸν* a graceful equivalent for "French"?); the siege of Londonderry described in the style of Thucydides (a really considerable performance, both in quantity and quality); and a characteristic passage from *The Origin of Species*, put with great skill into scientific Greek, form the bulk of Mr. Waddell's

Greek diversions. Those in the Latin language seem to us less interesting. There is grace in the Alcaic rendering of Tennyson's "Love and Death." We observe that Mr. Waddell largely allows hiatus between the third and fourth lines of the Alcaic stanza, which Horace normally avoids; indeed, the third line, the crux of the metre, is roughly treated by him—e.g., in the spirited rendering of "Scots, wha hae" (p. 69), such a line as

"Siccabimus cum corde venas"

jars upon the ear. And the mixture of hexametric, elegiac, and nondescript metres in the version of "Lead, kindly Light," seems to us to imitate rather the outward form than the essence and music of the original. The epigram on Aristotle is neat:

ὅς ποτ' ἄριστον ἔθηκε τέλος προτέρου σοφοῦσιν
ἐδ' ἐτέθη κέλνφ τοῦνομ' Ἀριστοτέλης.

NOTES AND NEWS.

MESSRS. GEORGE BELL & SONS are about to publish a volume of essays, entitled *The New Spirit*, by Mr. Havelock Ellis, editor of the "Contemporary Science" series and the "Mermaid" series of Elizabethan Dramatists. The volume will contain studies of five writers whose influence on the thought of the time has been, and is, considerable: Diderot, Heine, Ibsen, Walt Whitman, and Tolstoi. An introduction and conclusion will deal more generally with the problems of current life and thought.

MR. T. FISHER UNWIN will publish next week *Italian Characters in the Epoch of Unification*, by the Countess Martinengo Cesaressco, containing lives of the patriots Ugo Bassi, the Cairoli, Daniel Manin, Constance d'Azeglio, and others. The work will also be issued simultaneously by the Fratelli Trèves, of Milan.

MESSRS. R. BENTLEY & SON will shortly publish a new work of fiction by Hugh Westbury, which is understood to be the pseudonym of a well-known Liverpool journalist. The author's first book, *Frederick Hazledene*, was a bright story of contemporary English life. Its successor, to be entitled *Acte*, is a romance of the time of Nero; and Hugh Westbury has followed the early tradition which attributes the conversion of Acte to St. Paul.

THE March volume of the "Canterbury Poets" will contain *The Lady of Lyons and other Plays*, by Lord Lytton.

MESSRS. GEORG, of Basel, will shortly issue a French translation of the late Sir Francis Adams and Mr. C. D. Cunningham's work *The Swiss Confederation*, by M. Henry Loumyer, conseiller of the Belgian legation at Bern, and an old friend and colleague of the authors, M. Ruchonnet. The Swiss Minister of Justice and Police has written an introduction.

MESSRS. BICKERS & SONS announce *Induction and Deduction: a Historical and Critical Sketch of successive Philosophical Conceptions*, by Constance C. W. Naden, edited by Dr. R. Lewins.

A NEW and complete edition of William Leighton's Poems, with illustrations, is announced as to be published immediately by Mr. Elliot Stock.

MESSRS. FREDERICK WARNE & Co. have in the press a story entitled *Mine Oun Familiar Friend*, by Miss A. L. Harris.

THE next addition to "Warne's London Library" will be an original story by Miss E. J. Clayden, entitled *By the World Forgot*.

THE American branch of the publishing business of Cassell & Co., Limited, has been acquired by a syndicate of Americans, trading, from and after January 1, under the designation of "The Cassell Publishing Company." The new company will be carried on under the management of Mr. Oscar M. Dunham, who has been associated for many years with the business; and it will continue to act as the agents throughout the United States and Canada for the sale of the publications and works of the English company, which on its part will act similarly in Great Britain, the colonies, and on the continent of Europe for the American publications of the Cassell Publishing Company.

A FRAGMENT of a MS. of the "Divina Commedia," consisting of four cantos of the *Paradiso*, has lately been discovered by Signor Zanino Volta, of Milan, in the binding of an old book belonging to the Biblioteca del Collegio Ghislieri at Pavia. Signor Volta assigns the MS., which must have been a handsome one, to the middle of the fourteenth century, and judges it to be the work of a Roman, Tuscan, or South Italian scribe. It is to be hoped that this interesting fragment will be printed.

MESSRS. SOTHEBY will sell on Monday and Tuesday of next week a miscellaneous collection of books and MSS. Besides the musical library of Mr. Alexander Foote, we notice the following attractive lots: Sir Walter Scott's MS. of the first canto of "The Lay of the Last Minstrel; Moore's MS. of "Lalla Rookh," together with his corrected proof sheets; Tennyson's MS. of the lyrics interpolated in "The Princess," which vary considerably from the printed versions; Bishop Wilson's MS. diary during the last twelve years of his life at Calcutta; Sir John Franklin's MS. journal at Malta and the Ionian Islands in 1831; and two fine vellum MSS. of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries—an illuminated *Horae*, and the latter half of Wiclif's translation of the Bible—which are believed to come from the Abbey of Reading. Among the printed books, we may mention Blake's *Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, *Book of Thel*, and *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*, bound up in one volume; and the Reports of the Council of the Royal Scottish Academy, from 1828 to 1881, illustrated with 154 portraits and 279 autograph letters.

THE trustees of the British Museum have just made a present of duplicates to the Guildhall Library, consisting of about 5000 books and 11,000 pamphlets. The English books, numbering upwards of 1700 volumes, include a valuable addition to the already rich collection of works relating to London. There are also numerous works in Welsh and Gaelic, Greek and Latin, French, Provençal and other dialects, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Scandinavian, Russian, Hebrew, and Oriental languages. The *Pro Sacerdotum Barbis* of Valeriano Bolzani (1531), and the sermons preached at St. Peter's, Rome, in 1484, before the election of a Pope, are rare.

THE annual meeting of the Colonial Institute will be held on Tuesday next, February 18, at 4 p.m. The report to be presented by the council is of a very satisfactory character. The total income during 1889 amounted to £7738; and the number of fellows at the close of the year was 3562. The library now contains 7654 volumes, 3585 pamphlets, and 221 files of newspapers. In addition, files of 76 colonial newspapers have been forwarded to the British Museum for preservation there. It will be proposed to make a change in the rules, with the object of limiting admission to the Institute to British subjects.

THE complete collection of Signor Sella's magnificent photographs of the Caucasus, some

of which were shown by lantern to illustrate Mr. Douglas Freshfield's paper on Monday, will be on exhibition in the map-room of the Royal Geographical Society from Friday, February 14, till the end of the month.

Readers of *Travels in Tunisia*, by Alexander Graham and H. S. Ashbee (1887) will remember that one of the features of that altogether admirable book was a bibliography, which covered the entire period from the times of Carthage down to the French protectorate. This bibliography has now been reissued by Mr. Ashbee, in handsome large octavo (Dulau), with an appendix augmenting the number of titles by about one third, and a copious index to facilitate reference. To show how wide is the field covered, we may quote from the preface the following classification of the contents:—

"(1) books on Carthage and Utica, with their history and archaeology; (2) books on Tunisia, or on towns or separate districts of that country; (3) books partly on Tunisia; (4) books on the Barbary States (when Tunisia is included) and their piracies; (5) articles in Societies' Transactions, collections of travels, encyclopaedias, magazines, and other periodicals; (6) dictionaries and manuals of conversation in the Arab language; (7) a few books not specially on Tunisia, but illustrating indirectly the religion, customs, antiquities, or language, ancient or modern, of that country; (8) Consular reports; (9) some works of the imagination—novels, dramas, and poems."

It is curious to note the favourable treatment which Northern Africa has received from bibliographers. To take only English works—Prince Ibrahim Hilmy has compiled two large though by no means exhaustive volumes of the literature relating to Egypt and the Sudan. For the Barbary States, Sir R. Lambert Playfair, our indefatigable consul-general, published a bibliography of Algeria two or three years ago through the Royal Geographical Society, and has just finished a companion work on Tripoli; while we understand that Dr. Robert Brown is well advanced with his bibliography of Morocco. What would not the student of Indian history give for similar help, even in detached portions of his vast subject?

UNIVERSITY JOTTINGS.

PROF. MAX MÜLLER was prevented by illness from beginning his second course of Gifford Lectures last week. A notice published at Glasgow states that the professor hopes to begin his lectures this week.

In Convocation at Oxford on Tuesday last, a statute proposing the abolition of the *viva voce* examination in Responsions was passed by a majority of 67 votes to 36.

PROF. JAMES STUART has resigned the chair of mechanism and applied mechanics at Cambridge, which he has held since the foundation of the office in 1875.

AMONG the public lectures announced at Oxford are two by Prof. Rhys, on "Celts and Pre-Celts"; and three by the Choragus, on "The Great Netherland Musicians and their Influence on Italy," "The Progress of Pure Choral Music in Italy," and "The Culmination of Pure Choral Music." The latter course will be delivered in the Sheldonian Theatre, with musical illustrations.

THE Fitzwilliam Museum syndicate at Cambridge have issued a report, proposing (*inter alia*) that Mr. M. R. James, of King's College, be re-appointed to the office of assistant-director of the museum, with the special duty of cataloguing and arranging the collection, which has lately been largely augmented through the excavations at Naukratis and in Cyprus.

At the meeting of the Ashmolean Society at Oxford on Monday last, Mr. F. R. Dixey read a paper on "The Wing-Markings of Butterflies as a Guide to their Phylogeny."

THE English translation of the "Ajax," to be performed at St. Andrews on Thursday next and the two following days, is that of Prof. Lewis Campbell; and the part of Athena will be taken by Mrs. Campbell.

PROF. H. A. STRONG, of University College, Liverpool, was elected a fellow of the Scottish Society of Literature and Art at the last meeting of the council of that society held on February 7.

THE *Durham University Journal* of February 8 contains a classified list of the public writings of the late Bishop Lightfoot. His letter on "The Muratorian Fragment" in the *ACADEMY* of September 21, 1889, is included; but not that which appeared in the *ACADEMY* of May 21, 1887, entitled "The Earliest Papal Catalogue," in which he claimed to discover the lost list of Hegesippus in Epiphanius, *Haer.* xxvii. 6.

PROF. MARGOLIOUTH's recent inaugural lecture at Oxford on "The Place of Ecclesiasticism in Semitic Literature," which is reviewed in the *ACADEMY* this week, has been the subject of two elaborate articles in the *Oxford Magazine*, signed S. R. D.

TRANSLATION.

PLATO TO ASTER.

Ἀστήρ πρὶν μὲν ἔλαμψες ἐν ζῳαῖσιν Ἑῶτος·
νῦν δὲ θανάῳ λάμψεις Ἐπείροσιν ἐν φθιμένῳ.

Anthologia Palatina, vii. 870.

SWIFT TO STELLA.

WHILE, Stella mine! bright life was thine,
My Morning Star wast thou.
E'en dead and gone, thou shinest on,
My Star of Evening now!

J. E. S.

OBITUARY.

MRS. JOSHUA STANGER.

MRS. STANGER, who died at Keswick on Thursday of last week, was a daughter of William Calvert, the only friend of Coleridge, and the brother of the Raisley Calvert who left £900 to Wordsworth. Brought up at Greta Bank (since the residence of the Speddings), her childhood was spent with Coleridge's and Southey's children, and she remembered both the poets, as well as Wordsworth and Shelley. Wordsworth visited at her father's house, and Shelley stayed a few days there on his way from Wales to Edinburgh in 1813. Her recollections of Hartley Coleridge were very intimate, and for Southey as a man she had a feeling of the deepest reverence. She died at 85 years of age, and was probably the last link with the poets of the Lake country.

A MEMORY.

M. S., obiit *Fieldside, Keswick, February 5, 1890.*
CHILD of the brother of that generous man
Who, vowed to Death, bequeathed his friend,
release
From trivial care, and gave the muses ease,
And set laborious Wordsworth in the van—
You knew Nurse Wilsey, coaxed Old Ologger Dan,
Climbed unrepined on Southey's genial knees,
Watched for the bard's home-coming through
the trees,
And, wreath in hand, to crown the Laureate ran.
Bright shone the sun, the Crosthwaite bells rang
clear,
When blue-eyed Sara and that Rydal maid,
The gentle Dora, tended you as bride.
But now another bridal morn is here,
Christ in the heavens has called you to His side,
And all the vale is rolled from sun to shade.

H. D. RAWNSLEY.

MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS.

WE cannot expect that every number of the *Antiquary* should be equally interesting. The one before us is, we are sorry to say, dull. The two articles on the Tudor Exhibition, by the Hon. Harold Dillon and the Baron de Cosson respectively, are the redeeming feature. The Baron de Cosson knows more of ancient arms and armour than any other dweller in England; no one can read the paper he has given us without learning much from it. The conference on altar stones contains facts which will be new to most of the readers. The Rev. Joseph Hirst has, we believe, made these objects his especial study. We wish the editor of the *Antiquary* would open his columns to correspondents, for the purpose of a full catalogue being made of the mediaeval altar-slabs which yet exist. We believe all the brasses now to be found in our churches have been catalogued. The old altar-stones have an interest for moderns, for many reasons. We fear that, when churches undergo the process called "restoration," ignorant workmen often destroy what time has so long spared. Miss Florence Layard tells a curious story of spiritual possession. The paper by the Rev. Alfred S. Porter on the mediaeval tiles of the priory of Great Malvern would have been more instructive if it had been accompanied by illustrations.

SELECTED FOREIGN BOOKS.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

- BELLY, F. L'isthme américain: notes d'un premier voyage en 1888. Paris: Fischbacher. 7 fr. 50 c.
CART, J. Histoire de la liberté des cultes dans le canton de Vaud, 1798—1889. Paris: Fischbacher. 4 fr.
CHAMPEAUX, A. de. Histoire de la peinture décorative à toutes les époques. Paris: Renouard. 15 fr.
CONTEDES, Le Comte G. de. Le Comte d'Orsay: physiologie d'un roi de la mode. Paris: Quantin. 8 fr.
HART, G. Ursprung u. Verbreitung der Pyramus- u. Thise-Sage. Leipzig: Fock. 1 M. 60 Pf.
JOUIN, H. Charles Lebrun et les arts sous Louis XIV. Paris: Renouard. 60 fr.
LAGREZE, G. B. de. Les Normands dans les deux mondes. Paris: Firmin-Didot. 5 fr.
MINOR, J. Aus dem Schiller-Archiv. Ungedrucktes u. Unbekanntes zu Schillers Leben u. Schriften. Weimar: Böhlau. 2 M.
NOTICE sur un manuscrit du XIV^e siècle, Les Heures du Maréchal de Boucicaut. Paris: Morgand. 150 fr.
RIS-PAGUOT. Dictionnaire des poisons d'orfèvres. Paris: Renouard. 15 fr.

HISTORY, ETC.

- AKTENSTÜCKE zur Wirthschaftspolitik d. Fürsten Bismarck. Hrg. v. H. v. Föschingen. 1. Bd. Bis zur Uebnahme d. Handelsministeriums (1880). Berlin: Hennig. 12 M.
AVEREL, le Vicomte G. d'. Richelieu et la monarchie absolue. T. 4. Paris: Plon. 7 fr. 50 c.
BAUDELLART, A. Philippe V. et la cour de France 1700—1715. Paris: Firmin-Didot. 10 fr.
BAUZON, l'abbé. Recherches historiques sur la persécution religieuse dans le département de Saône-et-Loire pendant la Révolution. T. 1. Paris: Bouillon. 10 fr.
BIRE, Edmond. Paris pendant la Terreur. Paris: Didier. 3 fr. 50 c.
DENIFLE, H., et Aem. CHATELAIN. Chartularium Universitatis Parisiensis. T. I. (ab anno MOC usque ad annum MOCXXXVI). Paris: Delalain. 30 fr.
DUQUET, A. Guerre de 1870—1871. Paris: le quatre-Septembre et Chatillon. Paris: Charpentier. 8 fr. 50 c.
LEHMANN, E. De publica Romanorum servitute quaestiones. Leipzig: Fock. 1 M.
MUYDEN, Berthold van. La Suisse sous le pacte de 1815, 1818—1880. Paris: Fischbacher. 8 fr.
PRESSENSE, E. de. L'Eglise et la Révolution française: histoire des relations de l'Eglise et de l'Etat de 1789 à 1814. Paris: Fischbacher. 7 fr. 50 c.
RASTOUL, A. Le Maréchal Randon, 1788—1871, d'après ses mémoires et des documents inédits. Paris: Firmin-Didot. 5 fr.
SURCOUF, R. Un corsaire malouin: Robert Surcouf. Paris: Plon. 7 fr. 50 c.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE.

- BORNEMANN, J. G. Beiträge zur Geologie u. Paläontologie. 1. Hft. Ueber den Buntsandstein in Deutschland u. seine Bedeutung f. die Trias. Jena: Fischer. 7 M.
DELAFOUD. Bassin houiller et permien d'Autun et d'Épinac. Fasc. 1. Stratigraphie. Paris: Baudry. 12 fr.

ROGENHOFER, A. F. Afrikanische Schmetterlinge d. k. k. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums. I. Wien: Hölder. 2 M.
 SCHLETTBERG, A. Die Hymenopteren-Gruppe der Euanthiden. 3. Abth. Wien: Hölder. 10 M.

PHILOLOGY, ETC.

AVESTA. Edited by K. F. Geldner. II. Khorda Avesta. Fasc. 8. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer. 18 M.
 BURGASS, E. Darstellung d. Dialects im XIII. sel. in den Départements Seine-Inférieure u. Eure auf Grund v. Urkunden unter gleichzeit. Vergleich. m. dem heut. Patois. Leipzig: Fock. 2 M.
 DEVAUX, A. De l'étude des patois du haut Dauphiné. Paris: Welter. 2 fr. 50 c.
 LIESENBERG, F. Die Stieger Mundart e. Idiom d. Unterharzes, besonders hinsichtlich der Lautlehre dargestellt. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck. 4 M. 80 Pf.
 PETERS, J. De C. Valerii Flacci vita et carmine. Leipzig: Fock. 1 M. 50 Pf.
 SCALA, R. v. Die Studien d. Polybios. I. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer. 5 M.
 SEUMHILF, F. De Theogoniae Orphicae forma antiquissima dissertatio. Berlin: Calvary. 1 M. 60 Pf.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A DANISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE QUESTION OF THE ORIGIN OF PRINTING.

Copenhagen: Feb. 10, 1890.

The ACADEMY has for years endowed research by its large hospitality to students engaged in enquiries out of the common beat. Therefore is it that it has so many friends among the learned, the wide world over. How much light has been thrown in its columns on science manifold by the letters of so many "diggers" with pick or pen! One subject which went through many of your numbers, in papers afterwards collected by the ingenious author as a separate volume, was the discussion by Mr. Hessels on where, and by whom, printing was invented. They excited great interest among the class it concerned, and polemical pieces for and against have followed.

At Copenhagen, also, Mr. Hessels's articles were eagerly looked for, and privately much debated. Now, a new Danish Club having lately been organised here for ventilating everything connected with books and bookbinding, &c., the whole question has been taken up afresh by a veteran historical and literary writer, able to speak with authority, being also for many years a worker in the field of bibliography. This gentleman, well known in Great Britain, is Dr. Chr. Bruun, keeper of the Danish National Library. A few weeks ago came his quarto, pp. viii. and 92, under the title *De nyeste Undersøgelser om Bogtrykkerkunstens Oprindelse* (Philipsens Boghandel, Kjøbenhavn, 1889). It is the first volume issued by the above-mentioned "Forening for Boghaandværk." Besides engravings in the text, it has six facsimiles of rare leaves, partly printed in colours.

Characteristic of Dr. Bruun is a certain dry humour, which is very refreshing, combined with exceptional urbanity and modesty of tone. He not only knocks no one down, but he clenches nothing where there may be any loophole of doubt. He also appreciates the many difficulties—that the primitive press technicalities were written of in Latin; that the very oldest things bear no dates; that the transition from block-books, &c., to types will never be fully understood; that decisive contemporary documents are few or nowhere; and that no single man can properly consult and compare these scarce imprints, unavoidably scattered in public and private bookrooms. The whole treatise goes direct to the point, shows immense reading of the literature, and great personal labour. In style it is not intended for the indolent many, but will be welcomed by those especially interested in this pursuit. Chapter i. is given to Coster, the next to Gutenberg, the last to "The Technical Details connected with the Invention of Printing." This third chapter is of great value, and we gladly observe the librarian's familiarity with the mysteries of type metals, type cutting, type founding, the "chapel," ink, paper, and so on—an advantage

not many such writers have had. Dr. Bruun particularly shows his sagacity by insisting that the real kernel of the whole dispute is—the cutting and casting of movable metal types.

I dare not dwell on his pages; but the public may well expect some idea of his final verdict. I give it in as few lines as I can. At p. 58, after handling a crowd of very early statements, founded on fact or tradition, as to Gutenberg and Mainz, he says:

"But what can we produce from the same period as to Coster? Not one single word, merely that the *Cologne Chronicle* speaks of Dutch Donatuses."

And, again, at p. 84, 85:

"As far as I can see, it was Gutenberg who theoretically thought out the various steps in the art, and who practically took those steps. How or whence he got his first ideas is no business of mine, as little as what his imperfect beginnings may have been; for I cannot get hold of anything real on these heads. We have no sure notices as to the materials in the very earliest years; but we have the results staring us in the face, and these are eloquent enough. . . . Is there any chance that the future may bring evidence so strong as to overturn my theorem—that the art of printing books with movable cast types was first found by the genial mechanician and metal worker, Johan Gutenberg, who also constructed the earliest type-casting machine?"

GEORGE STEPHENS.

[We may mention that Mr. Hessels's championship of the claims of Coster has also called forth a reply from Italy—*L'Origine Tedesca e l'Origine Olandese dell'Invenzione della Stampa*, by C. Castellani (Venice: Ongania). We hope shortly to notice Signor Castellani's little book; at present we must be content to say that he is altogether in favour of Mainz and Gutenberg.—ED. ACADEMY.]

THE ETYMOLOGY OF "TERTRE."

Stanhoe Grange, Norfolk: Feb. 6, 1890.

If Mr. Bradley's conjecture (ACADEMY, January 18) that *tertre* comes from **terristrum*, **terristra*, from Lat. *terra*, be unacceptable, I would suggest that the origin of the word might be found in the Lat. *titulus*.

In Late Latin *titulus* had a meaning of "boundary," "limit" (see Du Cange, s.v. *Titulus*), whence, apparently, the Fr. *titre*, as a "hunting-term," got its meaning of "post," "station":—"lieu, relais où l'on poste les chiens, pour courir la bête à propos quand elle passe" (Littré).

There seems no phonetic difficulty in the way of connecting *tertre*, O.Fr. *telre*, with *titre*, Prov. and O.Fr. (fifteenth and sixteenth centuries) *titre*, from Lat. *titulus*; and it requires no great effort to connect them in meaning likewise, if the above-mentioned sense of *titre* be taken into consideration.

The similarity in meaning between *titre*, as a hunting term, and *tristre* is striking; and one would be tempted to connect them were it not for the difficulty in that case of accounting for the *s* in the latter word.

I see, by the way, that Mr. Bradley, on the authority of Lacurne, credits Froissart with the use of *tristre* in one of his poems in the sense of *tertre*, "mound." This instance was apparently unknown to Scheler, who only mentions the forms *terne*, *tiene*=*tertre*. These occur both in the *Chronicle* and in the poems.

PAGET TOYNBEE.

"KENEPAS" IN THE ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE.

Corpus Christi College, Oxford: Feb. 11, 1890.

Dr. H. Logeman, Professor of English in the University of Ghent, has kindly pointed out to me that my suggestion as to the mean-

ing of *kenepas* has been anticipated by Kluge in an article in Paul und Braune, *Beiträge* viii. 528-9, who says "Sollte man nicht an altfriesisches *kenep* = alt nord. *kanpr* 'schnurbart' anknüpfen dürfen?"

I am glad at any rate to have brought independent historical confirmation of a solution which Kluge proposed on purely philological grounds.

CHARLES PLUMMER.

"STORY OF THE NATIONS—EARLY BRITAIN."

Feb. 10, 1890.

Adverting to the review of this book in last week's ACADEMY, one of the most astonishing slips may be found in the full-page plate on p. 111. This engraving purports to represent two flint knives, in the chapter illustrative of the English Conquest. The illustration really shows to a much reduced scale the front and edge view of a large Palaeolithic implement, now in the collection of Dr. John Evans, which was found in the Stoke Newington gravels by Mr. Worthington G. Smith.

A.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

SUNDAY, Feb. 16, 4 p.m. South Place Institute: "National Life and Thought in Spain," by Mrs. Cunningham Graham.
 8 p.m. Ethical: "Friendship," by Mrs. Bryant.
 MONDAY, Feb. 17, 5 p.m. London Institution: "The Poetry of William Dunbar," by Prof. W. F. Ker.
 8 p.m. Royal Academy: "Sculpture in Greek Temples," I, by Mr. A. S. Murray.
 8 p.m. Society of Arts: "Cantor Lecture—'Stereotyping,'" I, by Mr. Thomas Bolas.
 8 p.m. Aristotelian: "The Distinction between Society and the State," by Mr. J. S. Mann.
 TUESDAY, Feb. 18, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "The Post-Darwinian Period," V., by Prof. G. J. Romanes.
 4 p.m. Colonial Institute: Annual Meeting.
 7.45 p.m. Statistical: "Statistics of Insanity in England, with special reference to Evidence of its increasing Prevalence," by Mr. N. A. Humphreys.
 5 p.m. Society of Arts: "Ocean Penny Postage and Cheap Telegraph Communication between England and all Parts of the Empire and America," by Mr. J. Henniker Heaton.
 8 p.m. Civil Engineers: "The Shanghai Water-Works," by J. W. Hart; "The Tyam Water-Works, Hong Kong," by J. Orange; "The Construction of the Yokohama Water-Works," by Mr. J. H. T. Turner.
 8.30 p.m. Zoological: "Additions to the Lizard Collection in the British Museum," I, by Mr. G. A. Boulenger; "A Guinea-fowl from Zambesi, allied to *Numida cristata*," by Mr. P. L. Sclater; "The Genus *Cyon*," by Dr. Mivart.
 WEDNESDAY, Feb. 19, 8 p.m. Society of Arts: "The Organisation of Secondary and Technical Education in London," by Prof. Silvanus P. Thompson.
 THURSDAY, Feb. 20, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "The Three Stages of Shakespeare's Art," II, by Canon Ainger.
 7 p.m. London Institution: "Franz Schubert and his Successors," by Mr. Carl Armbruster.
 8 p.m. Royal Academy: "Sculpture in Greek Temples," II, by Mr. A. S. Murray.
 8 p.m. Linnean: "The Fruit and Seed of Juglandia," "The Shape of the Oak Leaf, and the Leaves of Viburnum," by Sir John Lubbock.
 8 p.m. Chemical: "The Behaviour of the more Stable Oxides at high Temperature," by Dr. G. H. Bailey, D.Sc., and Mr. W. B. Hopkins; "The Influence of Different Oxides on the Decomposition of Potassium Chlorate," by Mr. G. J. Fowler and Mr. J. Grant.
 8 p.m. Electrical Engineers.
 FRIDAY, February 21, 5 p.m. Physical: "A Carbon Deposit in a Blake Telephone Transmitter," by Mr. F. B. Hawes; "The Geometrical Construction of Direct Reading Scales for Reflecting Instruments," and "A Parallel Motion suitable for Recording Instruments," by Mr. A. P. Trotter; "Bertrand's Refractometer," by Prof. S. P. Thompson.
 8 p.m. Geological: Annual General Meeting.
 7.30 p.m. Civil Engineers: "Some Types of American Locomotives, and their Construction," by Mr. C. N. Goodall.
 8 p.m. Philological: a Dictionary Evening, by Mr. Henry Bradley.
 9 p.m. Royal Institution: "Magnetic Phenomena," by Mr. Sheiford Bidwell.
 SATURDAY, Feb. 22, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Electricity and Magnetism," II, by Lord Rayleigh.
 8.45 p.m. Botanic: General Forthnightly Meeting.
 8 p.m. London Geological Field Class: "The Tertiary Rocks on which London Stands," II, by Prof. H. G. Seeley.

SCIENCE.

An Essay on the Place of Ecclesiasticus in Semitic Literature. Inaugural Lecture by D. S. Margoliouth, Laudian Professor of Arabic. (Oxford: Clarendon Press.)

IN a work on Hebrew wisdom, called *Job and Solomon* (1887), I called the attention of English students to an important essay by Prof. Bickell, in which he claimed to be able to retranslate the Book of Ecclesiasticus into Hebrew by comparing the three chief ancient versions, especially the Greek and the Syriac. In the judgment of this eminent Hebrew and Syriac scholar, Sirach (as we will call the book) consists of seven-syllabled verses, which in the "alphabetic song on Wisdom" (*Eccles.* li. 13-30) are linked together in four-lined strophes, but elsewhere in simple distichs. I stated that I reserved my opinion on Bickell's theory as to the possibility of an approximately correct restoration of the text of Ben Sirā till the appearance of a complete edition from his pen. Three times in the same year* Bickell announced his intention more or less distinctly of publishing the "Urtext" of Sirach. I fear that illness has compelled him to postpone his plan, otherwise I am certain that the views of Prof. Margoliouth's gallant attempt to do the same work would have roused the veteran to activity. So far as the short published specimen of Bickell's "Urtext" goes, he does not entirely agree with the Oxford scholar in his view of the character of Ben Sirā's Hebrew. This, however, is comparatively a slight matter. What is important is that knights should observe the rules of the tourney, and be courteous and even generous. If Nöldeke's brief reference to Sirach in his *Alttestamentliche Literatur* had a claim to be mentioned, surely Bickell's learned article and threefold announcement of his project had a greater claim. It was not enough to refer to this brilliant innovator's doctrine of Biblical metres; a candid admission of his priority in Sirach studies would have honoured the junior scholar, and prepossessed us in favour of his work. In fact, Prof. Margoliouth's merits are such that he could well have afforded to recognise his predecessor. Few men of his age have given so many proofs of varied linguistic attainments as he has done; and it is no secret that the prize-dissertation out of which his later work has grown (the present lecture is the "prodromus" of a book) was far above the ordinary standard for such compositions. His ingenuity, too, as his emendations of Greek and Arabic texts have proved, is at least equal to his scholarship; and it is this ingenuity which has somewhat imperilled the fruits of his earlier researches. His object in the dissertation was to compare the Greek and Syriac, and to follow the traces of the "Urtext" which, as anyone who looks closely will admit, gleam now and again through those versions. But his ambition has grown since then. He wishes to retranslate the book verse by verse into metrical New-Hebrew; and he gives us in this lecture specimens of his translation, justifying them by philological notes of great interest and full of surprises.

For a surprise it will certainly be to many readers to find how large a New-Hebrew element Prof. Margoliouth admits into the diction of Ben Sirā. Though later in point of time than Ecclesiastes, one would not have expected this writer to have wandered so far from the old paths. The lecturer, indeed, is not much surprised. At least, upon consideration he finds that the result is perfectly natural, now that he has given up the assumption under which he says that Dr. Edersheim and he had at first worked, that "the language of Ben Sirā was the language of the prophets" (p. 6). This extraordinary assumption (did Dr. Edersheim really share it?) has been followed by as strange a reaction. He now thinks, having separated himself (only for a time, I hope) from critical Hebrew scholars everywhere, that the books of the Old Testament can be arranged chronologically with reference to their linguistic types—a paradoxical view which I can only account for by the bifurcation which is still too prevalent in Oxford between the study of the language and that of the "subject-matter" of the Old Testament. Upon this new assumption Prof. Margoliouth can bring himself to believe that the vocabulary of Sirach is practically that of the *Aboth d'Rabbi Nathan*—later, that is, than the Mishna itself, and, further, to accept "a whole dictionary of philosophical terms, of logical phrases, of legal and of theosophical expressions," and a large amount of "serious alteration" of the "structure and grammar of the language" (pp. 6, 21). Now, I suppose there is no competent scholar who really supposes that "the language of Ben Sirā was the language of the prophets." Most will agree with Delitzsch that, without assuming the complete accuracy of the quotations from Sirach in the Talmud and Midrash, the style of the "Urtext," though modelled upon the "Solomonic," was yet not free from those later words and idioms which were the germ of the Rabbinic dialect (see *Zur Gesch. der jüdischen Poesie*, 1836, p. 21). And can we, on grounds supplied by uncertain and often most precarious inferences from the versions, venture to accept Prof. Margoliouth's conclusions, however seemingly advantageous to a literalistic theology which ought to be extinct, and is certainly not that of the able editor of *Lux Mundi*? I do not wish to speak disparagingly of the author's "restorations." They are not purely arbitrary; there is a method in what may seem to some so wild. But the guiding clue is, unfortunately, that of a doubtful metrical theory. If it be true, as even the author admits, that that brilliant innovator, Gustav Bickell, has not thoroughly made out his case for the metrical character of Old Testament poetry, is it likely that a restoration of the "Urtext" of Sirach would be more successful? I do not say that there are not many traces of metre in the Old Testament poetry, nor that passages of Sirach could not be restored in metre with some probability. There are lines in the two specimen-versions (xii. 8-11, and xvi. 17-23) which may be approximately correct. But the attempt to produce a connected restoration of a metrical Hebrew text seems to me hopeless, and I fancy that Bickell himself must have found this out. In dealing with Old Testament poetry, that great metrician had at least an

early traditional form of the Hebrew text, besides the versions, to work upon; but in Sirach he has but the versions.

It would be interesting to compare Bickell's restoration, which I suppose is partly ready, with that of Prof. Margoliouth. Has the former lighted independently on such a bold restoration as the latter has given of xvi. 21? The note which seeks to justify the translation, "No eye beholds my doings," is one of those surprises of which I spoke. I will not enter at much length into philological criticism. How acute the author is, and at the same time how daring, I need not say. But I will mention three of the more prominent of his many bold suggestions (pp. 14-16). The first is that παρρησία, in a saying inserted by MS. 248 at Eccles. xviii. 29, is merely a transliteration of Hebrew *par'ōsh* "flea," and that the Greek words (see p. 14) are a stupid rendering of a Hebrew proverb meaning "a live flea by itself is better than a couple of dead lions (literally, a dead lion taking hold of a dead lion)." The second is that an equally unintelligible Greek saying inserted by MS. 248 at xviii. 9 means, when put into Hebrew, "and all the years have not the same number," at the cost of admitting the hybrid grammatical form *hashshenāthā* ("the years" = *ἡ κοίμησις*). The third, that another inserted passage at xxii. 23, which runs, according to the Greek, "one must not always despise the circumference" (!), means, according to the New-Hebrew "Urtext," "one must not despise a learned man who is a beggar." A very suitable parallel to the second clause, "nor should a brainless man that is rich be admired"; but gained at the cost of accepting not merely the Targumic *b'sar* "to despise," but a form nowhere attested in Hebrew or Syriac, *'ālim* (cf. Arabic *'ālim* "a learned man"). This last importation of an Arabic exotic must be taken with Prof. Margoliouth's note (p. 20) on the second clause of xvii. 30, "because the son of man is not immortal." The Hebrew for "immortal," he thinks, was *'olāmī*, an equivalent, to which he was guided by a curious "error" of the Syriac version, "for his thoughts are not man's thoughts"; i.e., *'ilmō* from a supposed word *'ēlem* "intellect," cf. Arabic *'ilm* "knowledge." If Sirach wrote *'olāmī*, I do not wonder that the Syriac translator made a mistake; but I do wonder that instead of giving this Hebrew word (coined *ex hyp.* by Sirach) its natural Syriac meaning, "mundane" (often in Fathers: see Payne Smith), he went out of his way to select an Arabizing word, which all the world had forgotten till Drusius re-created it for another passage in Sirach, and Hitzig (thinking perhaps of the connexion invented by Arabic lexicographers between *'alam* "world," and *'alima* "to know") clung at it to explain a hard passage in Ecclesiastes (Eccles. iii. 11). I need hardly add that Prof. Margoliouth follows Drusius in his interpretation of Eccles. vi. 22. But may not that hard passage simply mean that Wisdom being pre-mundane, and having "come forth from the mouth of the Most High" (xxiv. 3), none can know her real name except by divine revelation? (Comp. Judges xiii. 18, Rev. xix. 12, 13.)

My conclusion is that Prof. Margoliouth's judgment is not equal to his learning. He

* *Zeitschrift für katholische Theologie*, 1882, pp. 326-332; *Carmina Vet. Test. Metrica*, 1882, praef., p. 4; *Dichtungen der Hebräer*, I, 1882, p. viii.

forms his opinions rapidly, and is very confident of their correctness. But he has fallen into many snares from which a less brilliant scholar would have escaped. He is also too fond of out-of-the-way learning, and of misleading antitheses. I trust, however, that his labour will not be thrown away. It cannot be so, of course, as regards himself; but the public of scholars ought to profit by his very careful comparison of the Greek and Syriac versions. No more important task has been undertaken by English Hetrasts in our day, and no one is more fitted to perform it than Prof. Margoliouth, if he will but be on his guard against himself. There should be no digressions, no useless learning, no importation of "dialectic words for which we should search the Rabbinic literature in vain." Condensed critical annotations are wanted, not a complete "restoration" of the "Urtext." Prof. Margoliouth, who has already shown such self-restraint in his edition and translation of an Arabic commentary on Daniel by a Karaite Jew (*Anekdota Ozoniensia*, 1889), ought not to find this limitation of his field too irksome. And I must regretfully express the hope that he will revise his unfortunate utterances upon Old Testament criticism and modern theology in the last three pages of this lecture—as-uring him, first, that critics are no more the foes of prophecy and revelation than he is; and, secondly, that if advanced criticism of the prophetic writings is reconcilable with the debased Hebrew of Ecclesiastes it is equally so with any conceivable results of the criticism of the text of Ecclesiasticus.

T. K. CHAYNE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CATULLUS XXV. 5.

Trinity College, Dublin: Jan. 31, 1890.

This is the Catullian crux. I print it in full:

"Cisade Thalle mollior cunilic capillo,
Vel anseris medullulla vel imula oricilla

"Idemque Thalle turbida rapacior procella,
Cum diua mulier aries ostendit oscitantes,
Remitte pallium mihi meum, quod involasti
Sudariumque Sactabum catagraphosque Thynos,
Inepte quae palam soles habere tamquam avita.
Quae nunc tuis ab unguibus reglutina et remitte,
Ne laneum latusculum manusque mollicellas
Inusta turpiter tibi flagella conscribillent,
Et insolenter aestues, velut minuta magno
Deprensa navis in mari vesaniente vento."

Scholars know the variants by heart. O has *mulier aries*, G *mulier alios*, with *aves* as well as *aries* written above *alios*. The large majority of second-rate MSS. have *mulier aves*, and it is from *mulier aves* I deduce what I believe Catullus wrote:

"Cum diua *miluorum aves* ostendit oscitantes."

"When the goddess of kites shows you birds agape." *Miluorum* is used in its metaphorical sense of rapacious thieves; and the metaphor is continued in *involasti*, "which you swooped on," and in *unguibus*, "your talons." I think this clears up, what so sadly wanted clearing up—the use of *diua*. *Diua* could not possibly stand by itself; *diua miluorum* is *diua furum*, the patroness of thieves, Laverna. No metaphor is more common than the comparison of a thief to a hawk; and that that must have been the metaphor here is shown by the sequel. Cf. Plaut. *Poen.* 5.5.13: *male ego metuo miluos*: *Male illa bestia est: ne forte me auferat, pullum tuum.* Pers. 3.3.5: *pecuniae accipiter.* Bacch. 2.3.40. *em, accipitrua haec nunc erit.* NIC.

Deceptus sum: Autolyco hospiti aurum credidi. Pseud. 3.2.62: *an invenire postulas quemquam coquam, Nisi miluinis aut aquilinis unguis?* It may not be a mere coincidence that another cook, another man of *miluinis unguis*, appeals to Laverna in the *Aulularia* as his patroness (*Aul.* 3.2.31).

ARTHUR PALMER.

SCIENCE NOTES.

At the last meeting of the Zoological Society, Mr. A. D. Bartlett communicated some observations on wolves, jackals, dogs, and foxes, based mainly upon his experience of those in the Gardens. His remarks tended to prove that all the varieties of the domestic dog owe their origin to wolves and jackals, the habit of barking having been acquired under the influence of domestication; and that the dog is the most perfectly domesticated of all animals. At the next meeting, Prof. St. George Mivart will read a paper upon "The Genus *Cyon*"—the wild dog of India.

WE have received a budget of the valuable papers issued as *Bulletins* by the Geological Survey of the United States. Several of these are by Mr. R. S. Woodward, who has charge of the mathematical division of the work of the survey, and from their nature will interest the geographer rather than the geologist. In one of them Mr. Woodward enters into a learned discussion of the form and position of the sea-level, while in another he reports on the determination of certain astronomic positions in Missouri, Kansas, and New Mexico; and in a third he offers a series of mathematical formulae and tables to facilitate the construction and use of maps. Palaeontologists will be glad to see Dr. C. A. White's beautifully illustrated descriptions of certain invertebrate fossils from various localities on the Pacific coast, including a collection from Alaska, all of which are new. Dr. J. C. Russell contributes a memoir of high geological merit on the subaerial decay of rocks. He also discusses the cause of the red colour of certain rocks, like the sandstones, shales, and marls of the Trias. Having shown that crystalline rocks may, on their decay, produce red sands coated with ferric oxide due to the decomposition of hornblende, mica, and other iron-bearing minerals, he concludes that the red sandstones may have derived their colour during the subaerial disintegration of the rocks whence they were originally derived. Prof. Shaler devotes a *Bulletin* to a description of the geology of Nantucket, an island off New England, consisting mainly of glacial sands, clays, and gravels.

PHILOLOGY NOTES.

MESSRS. KING & Cookson have been encouraged by the success of their *Principles of Sound and Inflection in Greek and Latin* to compile an abridgment of that work for the use of junior students. (Oxford: Clarendon Press.) At the same time, they have somewhat modified the general character of the original by adding a fresh chapter on comparative syntax, which they state to be mainly based upon Delbrück's *Syntaktische Forschungen* and Monro's *Homeric Grammar*. This change is expressed in the new title, "An Introduction to the Comparative Grammar of Greek and Latin." So far as we know, the book has no rival as a manual of the modern doctrines of classical philology for the higher forms of schools.

Another excellent school-book—Dr. James Gow's *Companion to School Classics*—has received the compliment of being translated into French by M. Salomon Reinach, who, apart from his well-known works on archaeology, is himself

the author of a *Manuel de Philologie Classique*, in two volumes. The translation is styled *Minerva*. (Paris: Hachette.) On the whole, the original is followed closely, though the chapter on the history of philosophy is omitted, as not being required for French schools, and the number of illustrations is increased from French sources. It may be prejudice, but we prefer the typography of the English book, though no doubt the French is the cheaper.

THE seventh volume of Coray's posthumous works, which was published last year (Athens: Constantinides), contains that scholar's notes on Hesychius and critical emendations of his text. It was known that he had written such remarks and corrections, from references that he made to them in his other works; but they were supposed to have been lost until quite recently, when Coray's copy of Alberti's edition of the *Lexicon* was found in Chios, with the marginalia in his handwriting. These have been edited by Prof. Damalas of Athens, and the work is published at the expense of several natives of Chios who are resident in Alexandria. The editor has introduced, along with Coray's notes, the remarks on the same words in Moritz Schmidt's five-volume edition of Hesychius, "in order," as he says, "to prove the critical and philological acuteness and learning of Coray, whose corrections in many points are confirmed by those of later critics, while in others they surpass theirs, and succeed, where others have failed, in throwing light on the right reading of the frequently corrupt text, which is of the greatest value both for the ancient and the modern language, and for the study of the Greek dialects."

A perusal of the book will show that this is no idle vaunt, and will arouse the reader's admiration for Coray's extraordinarily wide and minute acquaintance with Greek literature and the criticism of it, and for his readiness in applying this knowledge. It will further be seen how great an advantage he possessed in the matter of interpretation from his familiarity with Greek as his native tongue, and also from his extensive acquaintance with other modern languages, the idioms of which often furnish him with serviceable analogies. The work is one the publication of which should excite the gratitude of scholars and lexicographers.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

OLIFTON SHAKSPEARE SOCIETY.—(Saturday, Jan. 25.)

W. C. H. Cross, Esq., in the chair.—Mr. J. W. Mills, in a paper on "Dryden's 'Essay on Dramatic Poesy,'" called attention to its detailed references to the dramatic unities and to Dryden's surprising statements that all tragedies should be written in rhyme, and that because rhyme is to us in lieu of quantity to the ancients.—Mr. Walter Strachan read a paper entitled "The Ethics of 'Measure for Measure,'" saying that many a sermon preached in rolling periods through some vast, crowded minster has lacked the noble teaching of this play, which brings powerfully before us the weakness of man's nature, the divine character of forgiveness, the sanctity of woman's honour; and Shakspeare here, as elsewhere, shows that in the worst of men there is still some germ of goodness.—Mr. John Taylor, in a paper on "Shakspeare's Monks and Nuns," said that, while it was not correct to allege, with Mr. Goldwin Smith, that Shakspeare had no tinge of sympathy with Roman Catholic asceticism, it could not be shown, as M. Rio and others would have us believe, that he belonged to that Church. We need not assume Chaucer to have been a separatist from the Church on account of his sarcastic delineation of monks and friars, or Lord Tennyson to be a secret Romanist because of his sympathetic portrayal of St. Agnes or Sir Galahad. Neither need we consider the author of "Measure for Measure" to have been of the pre-Reformation faith by reason of his recognition of sincerity and sanctity where less tolerant minds could discover but self-delusion and hypocrisy. The adversary

of monasticism will in vain search Shakspeare for fine passages in reprobation of monks and nuns and of their devotional practices. Chaucer, when the abbey was in full splendour, makes his representative abbot and friar as the veriest worldlings. But there is nothing of the kind in Shakspeare. He represents them as sedate and reverend men with full sense of the responsibility of their profession. Had the Duke in "Measure for Measure" been a true friar, he would hardly have won our respect for veracity, seeing his methods of falsehood, circumvention, and under-plot in securing the success of his policy. And had Isabella been a confessed nun, her intemperate outbreaks would have been sadly inconsistent. As it is, it is difficult, notwithstanding her obdurate and sublime chastity, to admire one who, in her first enthusiasm for reclusal life, thought the rules of her order not sufficiently austere, and yet at the last renounced them altogether, and forsook her cell for a court. Shakspeare saves his real monks and friars and nuns from such worldly tarnish.—Mr. L. M. Griffiths discussed some various readings in "Measure for Measure."

CYMMRODORION SOCIETY.—(Wednesday, January 29.)

STEPHEN EVANS, Esq., in the chair.—Prof. Dobbie, of the University College of North Wales, read a paper on "Scientific Farming as applied to Wales," and explained the steps taken towards organising a complete system of agricultural education in the principality. The scheme proposed and now partly carried out in regard to North Wales implies: (1) the equipment of an agricultural department at the college at Bangor; (2) the establishment of local schools, at which work of the following kind would be carried on: (a) lectures in all the departments of agriculture, (b) classes in agriculture, and in the sciences most intimately related to agriculture, (c) instruction in dairy work, (d) field experiments; (3) the promotion of agricultural instruction in primary schools. This scheme seeks to embody the following principles, which are essential, in Prof. Dobbie's opinion, to the success of any comprehensive system of education in agriculture: first the association of agricultural with general education, whereby the narrowing influences of special education are guarded against; second, utilisation to the utmost of an existing means of instruction; third, regard for the special requirements of each district.

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.—(Monday, February 3.)

PROF. T. MCK. HUGHES, president, in the chair.—Archdeacon Chapman read a communication and exhibited documents on the purchase of the manor and advowson of Mepal in the fourteenth century by the prior and convent of Ely, as witnessed by a series of parchments which are preserved in the muniment-room of the cathedral. The document of chief interest which he exhibited was a Computus Roll of a certain monk, William of Wysbech by name, presented to the chapter in the year 1361, which contained a detailed account of moneys which he had received and expended for the convent, in the purchase and mortification of the manor and church. By this account it was shown that only a small portion of the necessary funds were provided from the treasury of the house, the greater part having been voluntarily subscribed by the monks themselves and their friends in the neighbourhood. The names of all the donors are set out at length with the sums which they gave; and special gifts are recorded of silver vessels, fork, cups, and mazer-bowls. The amount of the purchase-money is the first item on the debit side; and there follows an exact entry of three several journeys which the monk had taken to London for the purpose of obtaining the king's licence for the conveyance of the property to the Church of Ely, with his personal expenses, and the fees which he paid to the various officers of the king. Other documents, to the number of twenty-four, were also shown and described, by which were illustrated the several legal processes which had to be gone through, and the various transfers which had to be effected, before the requirements of the mortmain-acts of that time could be satisfied, and the property legally conveyed to the "dead hand" of the

Church.—Mr. E. A. W. Budge commented as follows on the Syriac and Coptic versions of the Martyrdom of St. George of Cappadocia, the patron saint of England: A few years ago I became aware of the existence of a Coptic MS. containing the history of George of Cappadocia, his martyrdom, the building of his shrine, Lydda, and the miracles which took place in it. This MS. belongs to one of the old collections preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and is divided into three sections. The first gives a brief account of his life and martyrdom, and was written by his servant, Pasikrates, who professes to have been present during the whole time of his master's torture, and to have witnessed his death. The second relates the account of the bringing of George's body from Tyre to Diospolis, and the building of a shrine there by his kinsman, called Andrew. This section purports to have been written by Theodosius, Bishop of Jerusalem. The third section contains the narrative of the miracles which took place in the shrine, and gives an account of the death of Diocletian by miraculous means. This MS. is written in the Memphitic, or Coptic dialect of Lower Egypt. There is preserved in the Vatican an encomium upon St. George of Cappadocia by Theodotus, Bishop of Ancyra, whose testimony is perhaps the most valuable of all, for it preserves many details which amplify the brief narratives of Pasikrates and Theodosius. Theodotus is probably to be identified with the Palestinian monk who caused a disturbance at the Council of Chalcedon, A.D. 451, and who afterwards came to Jerusalem and usurped the throne of Juvenal, from which he was expelled about the year 453. The work of Theodotus is referred to and quoted by Theodotus, who lived in the early part of the fifth century. Thus we have two full accounts of the martyrdom of St. George written before the end of the fifth century. We may take the matter a step further back, to prove that the story was known at the end of the third century; for we are distinctly told that Diocletian sent one of his generals called Eucherius, to demolish a shrine in Syria built in honour of St. George. The Coptic account, however, of the martyrdom, which appears to have been translated from the Greek, has been so altered by the Coptic scribe that the original form of the story has quite disappeared in this version. I may say in passing that this version was read publicly in the churches of Upper Egypt soon after the sixth century. As the work was known in Egypt at an early date, it follows as a matter of course that it would also be known to the Syrian monks who lived in the Scete desert. We should then expect that a translation into Syriac would very soon be made by them, and this turns out to be actually the case. We have in the British Museum three Syriac MSS. containing the history of St. George. They were written in the sixth, eleventh, and twelfth centuries respectively. A fourth MS., of great value for the text, which is indicated in this paper by D, is preserved in the University Library of Cambridge. If we compare the Coptic and Syriac versions of the history of St. George as we know it from the MSS. described above, we shall see that they are to all intents and purposes identical, and that they appear to have been translated from a Greek original. It is true that the Syriac account differs in some respects from the Greek version published by Pappenbroch in the *Acta Sanctorum*; nevertheless, making allowance for variant readings in the Greek MSS., it is quite clear that these two versions are the same. The Syriac version is simpler in form, and has less of the miraculous in it than the Coptic; and as the Syriac MSS. are older by three centuries than any Coptic MSS. known to us, we may assume at once that the additions in the Coptic version were added from the imagination of the scribe. As the Coptic version of the story has already been published by the present writer, it will only be necessary here to give the Syriac text of the history with the variant readings of the four MSS., together with an English translation of it. This translation was read, and some observations were made by Mr. Budge, and comparisons drawn between it and the myth, common to so many nations, of the combat between light and darkness.—Mr. Churton observed that the legends of St. George the Martyr assumed such a variety of form that it seemed impossible to ascribe them all to one origin. Canon Maclean, of the Arch-

bishop's Mission to the Nestorians or Eastern Syrians, had been making translations from their *Euchologion*; and among the features of a very scanty Hagiology, including the commemoration of the seven Maccabean martyrs and a few other saints, a conspicuous place was given to St. George the Martyr, which was a striking evidence of the widely extended influence of his name.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—(Thursday, February 6.)

Mr. T. H. BAYLIS, Q.C., in the chair.—Mr. J. L. André read a paper on Burton Church, Sussex, an edifice uninteresting as regards its structural features but containing a good screen and loft (the latter seldom met with in Sussex churches); a remarkable fragment of wall-painting representing a female tied head downwards to a Saltire Cross; and several sepulchral monuments. The most remarkable were an effigy of a lady only 3ft. 6in. long, and a brass to the memory of Dame Goring, which has the peculiarity of showing her dressed in an heraldic tabard.—The Rev. Dr. J. C. Cox read a paper on a private seal, engraved on amber, thirteenth century, found in a stone coffin in the church of Old Malton. On the seal is the following inscription: "Secretum signum fons placis avis leo lignum." Dr. Cox also exhibited some Celtic pottery, Samian and pseudo-Samian ware, flint flakes, bronze bangle and Roman fibula, lately found in Deep Dale Cavern, near Buxton, in Derbyshire.

FINE ART.

THE ART MAGAZINES.

WE prefer Jacques when he is content to be Jacques, and not trying to be J. F. Millet, as he is in the picture goupil-gravured for the *Magazine of Art*. The woodcuts for "Current Art" are as good as usual; but what does the writer intend when he says that of late years Mr. Hubert Vos has "borne much of the stress and strain of the Suffolk-street Exhibition." Does it simply mean that he has sent several pictures there, and does this hurt him very much? Mr. Alfred Gilbert's memorial tablet to the memory of the late Mr. William Graham is interesting, but the engraving is ineffective. In No. VIII. of "Glimpses of Artist Life," Mr. Spielmann reads some excellent lessons to art critics, which are noticed elsewhere in the *ACADEMY*. Is he really serious in thinking that the technique of David's "Mme. de Récamier" is simply contemptible; and, if so, what does he mean by "technique"? And, surely, he is too confident in his view that there are many masterpieces in the National Gallery that "please everybody at all times." We doubt if there is one which has not been severely criticised, especially by those most one-sided and most virulent of all art critics—the artists themselves. In this very number of the *Magazine of Art* Mr. Ford Madox Brown falls foul of the *Ansdei Madonna* in a way that makes us wish that we could have Raphael's opinion of Mr. Brown's mural paintings at Manchester.]

We are sorry to learn that the portrait of a young lady etched by Mlle. Poynot for the *Portfolio* is "not one of the least charming" of M. Chaplin's female studies, for we like neither the young lady nor her cat. We are told that she is dressed with "the combination of extreme simplicity and lightness which belongs to her age and class," which raises a question as to which class a young French lady of sixteen or seventeen belongs who wears absolutely nothing above her *corsage* but a scarf of gauze. The etching by Mr. H. Macbeth Raeburn, after Van Dyck's picture of David Ryckaert in the Madrid Gallery, is finely drawn and brilliant—more, indeed, like a Rembrandt than a Vanduyck in its powerful and apparently somewhat capricious lighting. For

its articles on "The British Seas," the *Portfolio* has secured the lively and competent pen of Mr. Clark Russell; but the most interesting article is that by the editor upon Mr. Joseph Pennell, whose recent eulogium of modern pen-drawing is dissected by Mr. Hamerton in his usually patient and skilful way. He is very delicate—almost tender—in his manipulation, but he lays bare the bone when he says:

"The distinct tendency is to take away pen drawing from the painters and etchers, and hand it over to a new class of specialists, men of unapproachable manual cleverness, who can hold their own not by any intellectual or really artistic superiority, but by pure manual mastery. Well, perhaps it is coming to this; but last week, among the drawings in the Louvre, such a consummation did not seem to me desirable."

The *Art Journal* is setting a good example in choosing as subjects for its etchings some of the most remarkable pictures by the younger painters. Last month Mr. C. N. Kennedy's "Neptune," which was one of the features of the New Gallery last year, was so honoured; and this month we have Mr. Frank Bramley's "A Hopeless Dawn" (excellently etched by Mr. James Dobie), which was purchased by the Chantry Trustees from the walls of the Royal Academy in 1880. This journal has done well also in securing Mrs. Henry Ady's (Miss Julia Cartwright) interesting article on "Vanishing Rome," together with the charming illustrations of scenes which will soon be swept away. The insertion in this number of some portraits of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, by their old friend, Mr. Rudolf Lehmann, is also a sign of editorial energy in a good direction; but it is doubtful whether a little more delay would not have been politic in this case, in order to insure satisfactory reproductions of the portraits, especially that after the oil picture of the poet. "The Royal Academy in the Last Century" is the first of what promises to be a very interesting and valuable series of papers by two authors with unusual opportunities for doing justice to their subject. These are Mr. Hodgson, the present librarian, and Mr. Eaton, the present secretary, of the Academy.

MR. JOHNSON'S PICTURES OF HIGHLAND SPORTS.

THE term Highland Sports is so much associated with the sword-dance, tossing the caber, and such-like athletic entertainments, that the title of Mr. C. E. Johnson's exhibition is calculated to raise expectations which are not unpleasantly disappointed when we find that the artist has only departed so far from his usual habits as to give us deerstalkers and salmon-fishers instead of those more bucolic or romantic personages which he usually introduces into his landscapes. If to some it may appear that sportsmen in tweed suits handling the gun and the rod do not add much to the solemnity of Ben Nevis or the savage majesty of the "Coolins" (as the catalogue phonetically calls the celebrated crags which tower above Loch Coruisk), they must at least admit that Mr. Johnson has never painted the noble scenery of the Highlands with greater skill or with a truer feeling for its grandeur. Art and sport seldom pull so well together as in this fine series of pictures. This is partly because Mr. Johnson is something of a sportsman as well as more than something of an artist, and knows not only how to handle a rod or a gun but how they look when they are handled properly. It is, however, the clever choice of subject, the artistic selection of the most pictorial as well as the most exciting moments which is of chief importance in conciliating his double ranks of critics.

All Mr. Johnson's larger pictures are successful. In one we see a fisherman casting his fly over the "Fank Pool" in the river Orchy—not only a lovely but a "likely" spot (12). In another, a stalker and his gillie, hidden by masses of rock and the slope of the mountain, have just come within shot of a fine stag who raises his head as if sniffing danger (5). In a third, "Grouse shooting, Argyleshire" (23), the shot has been fired, not without success. But none of these exceed in beauty the more peaceful scene of "The Sanctuary" (29), where the deer wander secure from the intrusion of the hunter. This is a beautiful picture of sunny slopes high among the hills, swept with the shadows of moving clouds. The scene is full of light and atmosphere, the colour pure and cool, and the deer are well drawn and charmingly grouped. Here Mr. Johnson's knowledge of the mountains, and his skill in drawing them, is displayed to unusual advantage. The whole design is fine and large, and the modelling of the broadly swelling slopes leaves little to be desired. To this or to "Deer Stalking" (5) we are inclined to give the palm. The latter is very fine in composition and rich in colour. As might be expected, the sport of deer-stalking affords the most numerous and most romantic "subjects." Nearly every incident of the day is recorded, from the early start to the bringing home of the deer. "Going to the Hills" (2), though one of the quietest, is remarkable for the fine painting of the broken foreground, its cool rich colour and perfect irradiation; "A Morning Start" (4), for its softly shadowed hills standing out so clearly, not against but under, the brilliant sky; and "Bringing home the Stag," for the well-drawn figures of the stalwart gillie and his horse winding with practised feet down the steep stony road. Nearly every picture or study has some charm of its own—of subject or design, of choice colour or atmospheric effect. Some fine qualities are common to all of them, and among these brightness and purity of colour are conspicuous.

On the whole, this is a remarkable summer's work, and one which cannot fail to raise Mr. Johnson's reputation as an artist. Throughout all the thirty-eight pictures and studies (though there are few which do not merit the former name) there is no sameness. There is great variety if we take the deer-stalking series alone, but if we include in our view the many other sports illustrated—grouse-shooting, heron-shooting, wild-duck-shooting, woodcock-shooting, salmon-fishing, trout-fishing, yachting—and add to these the pure studies from nature like the lovely "Moonlight Ramble" (18) and the "Seal Rock" (25), the unusual width of Mr. Johnson's range must be acknowledged. Moreover, it is all genuine individual work, the result of careful study and keen observation of nature.

COSMO MONKHOUSE.

A NEW MEZZOTINT.

WE presume that the charming face which looks out upon us from the beautiful mezzotint just sent us by Messrs. Buck & Reid is that of Christine Antoinette Charlotte Desmarest, and not of Mary Desmarest, better known as "La Champmeslé," the wife of the actor Charles Chevillet (Sieur de Champmeslé), and the mistress of Racine. She has little of the air of a tragedy queen, this sprightly and withal simple beauty—scarcely that of an actress. Unaffected, though doubtless a little vain of the plump and tapering fingers of the hand on which Mr. Norman Hirst has spent so much dexterity, she seems more fit to wear a dainty slipper than a tragic buskin, or even the high-heeled shoes in vogue when Louis XIV. was king. Yet she is said to have filled the

gap when her aunt La Champmeslé died, taking her place in "Oreste," and to have subsequently created the parts of Athalie and Semiramis. But—and this is more easily to be believed from this vivacious portrait by Santerre—she was equally good in comedy, and played the rôle of soubrette with sprightliness and charm unrivalled. The portrait is unusually attractive for many reasons. Among the lesser may be cited the costume with the ruff round the bare neck, and the unusual choice by the painter of a "horizontal" canvass for a half-length figure. The plate is pleasant also as a fresh sign that the fine old art of mezzotint is being revived in real earnest by hands which appreciate its distinct qualities. The picture was in the Lonsdale collection, and is a fine example of a painter little known in England. It is, or was, to be seen at the publishers' gallery in Bond Street.

NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

WE hear that Mr. Mitchell's well-known collection of early German drawings, which includes Dürers and Holbeins of importance, will be sold under the hammer before the season is far advanced.

THE exhibitions to open next week include a series of pictures and drawings of "Royal Berkshire," painted by three of the Royal British Artists—Messrs. Yeend King, John M. Bromley, and J. M. Macintosh—at Messrs. Dowdeswell's galleries in New Bond Street; and an unusually representative collection of the works of Daubigny, at the Goupil Gallery.

ON Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of next week Messrs. Sotheby will sell a miscellaneous assortment of coins, medals, tokens, &c. Most of the coins are English; but there is also included a consignment of Greek and Roman pieces from the Levant. The compiler of the catalogue should not have perpetuated the form "aes gravae."

MR. EDWIN SEWARD lately delivered at Cardiff an interesting lecture on the earlier methods in English water colour; and his discourse was illustrated by a selection of drawings lent by Mr. Pyke Thompson, from the Turner House, Penarth, and likewise by examples which are the property of Mr. Seward.

NOW that Mr. M. H. Spielmann's paper on Critics and Artists has been published in the *Magazine of Art*, we are better able than we were, when the reading of it at Edinburgh had been but briefly reported, to judge of its real character; and we confess we appreciate, even more than we had expected to do, its qualities of comprehensiveness and insight. While Mr. Spielmann is as ready as anybody to acknowledge the utility of a painter's criticism as bearing upon particular points or upon the work of an artist with whom he may chance to be in sympathy, he does justice to the value of that detachment from a particular line of practice which is within the scope of the literary critic alone. The "value" of literary criticism—nay, more, its indispensableness—Mr. Spielmann, unlike a certain fashionable painter, is too intelligent to "deny." And, among minor matters bearing on the question, Mr. Spielmann points out, with admirable vivacity, that the painter's frequent contempt for what he calls "anonymous" criticism savours of affectation—the painter knowing as well as it is possible to know who is the writer of any criticism of mark in an important organ of opinion, wherein, of course, "the veil of the anonymous" is, so to say, of the very finest Indian muslin. This is but one point, and it is not a great one; but it is long since the

question of the relations of critics and practitioners of painting has been threshed out so thoroughly as it has been by Mr. Spielmann.

THE STAGE.

STAGE NOTES.

ON Tuesday night, Mr. John Lawrence Toole bade farewell to the English public at a last performance at his own theatre; and he starts immediately for Australia, where it is many years since an artist of Mr. Toole's popularity has appeared. Mr. Toole—whom London will regret as much by reason of his qualities as a man as because of his success as a comedian—has become, quite recently, an expert in farewells. When we write these lines a farewell has still to be said by him at an entirely public banquet; but he has already said a farewell to the members of the Savage Club; he has said another farewell to the assembled members of the Green Room Club; and he has—we trust with many pangs—said farewell, at a large afternoon tea, to half the actresses of mark and charm upon the London stage, and to other friendly ladies besides. Australia is now, for a time at least, to have the satisfaction of counting among its guests an actor of wholesome and ever genial humour, of true observation, and of much maturity of method. Less accomplished than Mr. Toole himself in the art of saying farewell, let us, with whatever *naïveté* and want of finish in this matter may necessarily be perceptible, wish him, heartily, good-bye.

"New Lamps for Old" is the name of Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's new piece at Terry's Theatre, where—during Mr. Terry's prolonged absence—Miss Cissy Grahame will reign. Miss Grahame has already appeared with success in a shorter play by the same author, produced at another theatre; and—having in view, moreover, Mr. Jerome's uncontested popularity as a writer of the lighter fiction and of light essays—it is not surprising that Miss Grahame should have desired to open her present campaign by producing a new play from the wielder of so acceptable a pen. It is a little doubtful, however, whether Mr. Jerome has got quite enough story, or quite enough ingenious complication of incident, to properly occupy the number of acts into which he has cast his play. And, again, it is a little doubtful whether either the extinguished Mr. Postlethwaite—who flourished long ago in *Punch*—or Henrik Ibsen, whose followers have "talked him up" to very little purpose as yet in England, is quite a sufficiently important personage to inspire the dramatist with three acts of satire. Neither Ibsen nor Mr. Postlethwaite is present, just now, to many men's minds. So far as England is concerned, each perhaps has had his "day"—or as much of it, it may be, as he was entitled to. But this fact, though it affords reason for questioning whether the of basis Mr. Jerome's comedy be sufficiently substantial, affords no reason whatever for denying to the author of the new piece his fertility of resource and his humour of conception and dialogue. Certainly Mr. Jerome is an observer of life as well as of other men's fads about life. Much may be hoped for from him at the theatre. His chief characters—who, as in a satire of this sort they are in duty bound to do, prefer, as a rule, other people's husbands and wives to their own—are represented by Mr. Nutcombe Gould, Miss Cissy Grahame, Mr. F. Kerr and Miss Gertrude Kingston. And all these artists act brightly enough, though one of them—Miss Kingston—is too apt to temper with palpable exaggeration the display of an undoubted talent. For Mr. Penley there is perhaps not quite enough to do. Still, as an eccentric comedian, he is a man of

infinite resource; and he only has to appear upon the scene—especially if the scene happens to be a lift—to give men pleasure. Miss Houston and Mr. Lestocq give considerable assistance to the piece in parts which are not of the most prominent. And the piece will very likely do well; for, though it may not be a very large public which will care about its social satire, farcical comedy is in fashion, and this farcical comedy is at least merrily stirring. And Mr. Jerome is in fashion also; and, though his own method is at least as exaggerated as is that of any one of his actors, he, too, has a good deal in him, and the public has not taken to him wholly without cause.

MUSIC.

RECENT CONCERTS.

MR. HENSCHEL, anticipating the anniversary of Wagner's death, gave special prominence to that master's music at his fifth Symphony Concert on February 6, and familiar excerpts were rendered in a highly impressive manner. The programme included Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony—a work specially suitable on such an occasion. Here again the conductor displayed zeal and discretion. There was a large and enthusiastic audience. We never doubted Mr. Henschel's intelligence or musical feeling; but we have often thought him too demonstrative, thinking perhaps rather of the music than of his men. He now shows more dignity and command, and the Symphony Concerts seem indeed as if they were about to enter on a prosperous career.

Sir Charles Hallé gave his fourth and last concert on the following evening. The excellent violins again distinguished themselves in Cherubini's "Anacreon" Overture. A finished rendering of Wagner's "Siegfried Idyl" followed. Three movements from Grieg's "Peer Gynt" Suite were delightfully performed. The characteristic "In the Halls of the Mountain King" was repeated. Sir C. Hallé has not yet set his face against the encore system. Bach's Concerto in D minor for two violins afforded a strange but effective contrast to the preceding music. The performance by Mme. Néruda and Herr Willy Hess was admirable, and called forth loud and prolonged applause. The programme concluded with Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony. For the first time, we imagine, this work has been given at St. James's Hall two nights in succession.

Herr Stavenhagen was pianist at the first Crystal Palace concert of the new year on Saturday afternoon, February 8. He played Liszt's paraphrase of "Dies Irae" accompanied by the orchestra. We have already had occasion to notice this piece, the difficulty of which is only exceeded by its ugliness. The programme book refers to it as a "highly prized master-work of pianism, orchestration, and musical construction"; but in this description the writer shrewdly omits to say anything about the character of the music. That Herr Stavenhagen should admire Liszt's compositions is only natural; but he should learn that, at any rate in London, the public do not share his enthusiasm. He played magnificently, but the piece was coldly received. The programme included a Concert Overture "To the Memory of a Hero," by Mr. Claudius H. Coudery. The music is well written, and the composer handles the orchestra effectively; but there is no marked character either in the ideas or in the mode of development. A fine performance was given of Beethoven's Fourth Symphony, and of Gluck's Overture to "Iphigénie en Aulide," with Wagner's appropriate ending. Mme. Hope Glenn was the vocalist. Mr. Mauns met with an enthusiastic reception.

Brahms's Trio in E flat major (op. 40), for pianoforte, violin, and wald-horn was performed for the first time at the Popular Concerts on Saturday afternoon last, and repeated on the following Monday evening. The combination is an unusual one, and perhaps not altogether satisfactory, but the music is of marked interest. The opening movement, with its alternation of dreamy and lively moods, the deeply pathetic Adagio *mezzo* and the spirited finale are highly impressive. The Scherzo pleases us least. The work was magnificently interpreted by Sir C. Hallé, Mme. Néruda and Mr. Paersch. The fine horn-playing of the last named deserves special recognition. Sir C. Hallé performed Beethoven's Sonata in F sharp major in his best manner. The programme included some of Heller and Ernst's charming *Pensées Fugitives*.

Miss Geisler-Schubert and Miss Fillunger gave the first of two chamber concerts at Prince's Hall on Wednesday afternoon. Miss Geisler, a grand-niece of Franz Schubert, paid us a visit last season, and then her intelligent and refined rendering of works by that composer proved her worthy of the honoured name which she inherits. On Wednesday she took part in Schubert's Pianoforte Trio in E flat (op. 100). Herr Strauss and Mr. Whitehouse were her associates. She played well, but was more successful in the passages displaying finish and charm than in those demanding depth and grandeur. The long finale was given without the usual cut. This was perhaps unwise, seeing that her programme included another long work by Schubert—the Sonata in B flat. In this all her good qualities as pianist were brought out to advantage. Miss Fillunger, accompanied by Miss Geisler, sang songs by Brahms, and Robert and Clara Schumann. For the latter she was encored, and gave with much feeling Schumann's "Widmung." Her rendering of Brahms' "Meine Lieder" also deserves mention. There was a good attendance.

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